



RESOLUTION OPPOSING SCHOOL AID FUND TRANSFER TO HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, well-educated students prepared for college and careers is the best investment Michigan can make in the pursuit of a strong economy and a better future for its residents; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's standards for high school graduation have never been higher, with all students completing the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Exam to prepare them for post-secondary education or training; and

WHEREAS, school funding has increased by less than 1 percent per year during the past decade, failing to keep up with increased costs, mandates and standards, prompting staff and budget reductions to maintain programming; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters in 1994 approved Proposal A, a measure that eliminated the ability of school districts to seek operating funds from constituents and shifted that responsibility to the state through an increase in the sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the ballot language of Proposal A clearly indicated those revenues would be totally dedicated to public schools, as it was crafted to provide tax relief for property owners while maintaining adequate funding for K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, community colleges and institutions of higher education were not included in the ballot language of Proposal A, nor were they mentioned in voter communication stating the intent of the constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, community colleges and institutions of higher education are afforded the opportunity to increase tuition and fees to finance operations while school districts are prohibited from seeking additional operating funds to compensate for inadequate state funding; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of funds from the School Aid Fund to community colleges and institutions of higher education will debilitate the School Aid Fund and its ability to adequately fund public schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Farmington Board of Education opposes the proposal to divert dollars from the School Aid Fund to support community colleges and institutions of higher education at the expense of public school districts and the children they serve.

Resolution declared adopted this 12th day of April, 2011

Deborah L. Brauer
Secretary