



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 08-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR LOCAL DELEGATION IN MAKING CUTS TO THE 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET THAT WILL BEST PROTECT THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida is experiencing a general revenue shortfall of \$1.5 billion in recurring funds that make it impossible to complete the current budget without making painful cuts or raising revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, and the Broward County Legislative Delegation are committed to providing an educational program that fulfills the constitutional mandate that the education of Florida's children is a paramount importance of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, any cuts to K-12 services made by the Legislature must be made in ways that minimize the impact to student instructional services; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, if given additional flexibility by the Legislature, will further ensure that its first priority in making additional cuts will be to protect classroom instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, with the passage of HB 511 during the 2007 Session, the Legislature provided districts the authority to utilize local property taxes for property and casualty insurance, however, certain conditions must be satisfied. This ultimately bars almost every School Board in Florida from taking advantage of the flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the flexibility to utilize this local millage in the district could free up more than \$23 million this year and help the District meet the instructional needs of its students; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, is committed to providing its students with a high quality education program which means attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers by providing them with a salary that enables them to meet the high cost of living in Broward; and

**WHEREAS**, an effective educational program depends not only on teachers, but on all of the employees who work together to create a school district with high performance and who need to earn salaries that enable them to adequately provide for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Meritorious Award Program (MAP), which costs \$147.5 million statewide to provide incentives to only a small percentage of teachers serving a small percentage of students in the district; the funding budgeted by the State for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year will not even be distributed until after August 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Recognition Program costs approximately \$160 million per year statewide; and

**WHEREAS** K-12 enrollment in Florida is lower than anticipated and funds allocated for these students now will revert back to the State's General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, certain categorical funds, such as those earmarked for Instructional Materials, could be used to help address the shortfall; and

**WHEREAS**, other State mandated expenses should also be considered for cuts or local flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Working Capital Trust Fund is intended to be used for emergencies and major cuts to the education program of the State's children constitutes such an emergency; and



**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTS THE BROWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO URGE THE GOVERNOR AND THE FULL LEGISLATURE IN SPECIAL SESSION TO:**

**Pass immediate modifications to HB 511 allowing the Broward County School District to participate in the 2 mill flexibility;**

**Delay implementation of the Meritorious Award Program for one year and allow these funds to be used to help support a cost-of-living increase for all employees;**

**Utilize some or all of the School Recognition allocation for other operational needs or to meet a portion of each district's allocated general revenue cuts from the Legislature;**

**Maintain the Base Student Allocation by reallocating to the districts the budgeted, but undistributed, funds resulting from the State's lower-than-anticipated student enrollment;**

**Adopt legislation that waives, for one-year, the requirement that entire new textbook series be adopted, and give school districts the flexibility to use some of their Instructional Materials money to help maintain the Base Student Allocation; and,**

**Adopt legislation that, for one year, gives School Boards flexibility to use funds earmarked for specific and/or new programs to be used, instead, to meet a portion of each district's allocated general revenue cuts from the Legislature;**

**Spread the education cuts over four years by using some of the Working Capital Trust Fund to offset this year's reduction and replenish the Fund through smaller reductions in education funding spread over a multi-year period;**

**Limit budget cuts to the Florida Education Finance Program to the minimum levels possible under the Constitutional mandates for a balanced budget, while upholding the principal of protecting student instructional services.**

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of August 2007.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly A. Gallagher, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools