



INVESTING IN EDUCATION

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO PROVIDE EVERY CHILD ACCESS TO A SOUND BASIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, North Carolina lawmakers have failed to comply with Court decisions requiring the legislature to meet its constitutional obligation to provide all children in the State with a sound basic education;

WHEREAS, far too many students, particularly students of color, students from economically disadvantaged families, students with disabilities, English language learners, and rural students have been denied the opportunities guaranteed to them under the North Carolina Constitution;

WHEREAS, the State Constitution and North Carolina General Statutes require the State to fund a public school system that provides every child access to a sound basic education;

WHEREAS, adequate educational opportunities cannot be provided without adequate funding;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2021, the State submitted to the Court a long-term comprehensive remedial plan (the "Leandro Plan") detailing specific steps State leaders must enact to remedy the ongoing constitutional violations in our public school system to ensure that all students have access to the education they are owed under the State Constitution.

WHEREAS, the Leandro Plan represents the minimum steps State leaders must take to fulfill their constitutional duties and is not a menu from which policymakers may select their preferred initiatives;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2021 Judge W. David Lee ordered the State to implement that Leandro Plan "in full and in accordance with the timelines set forth therein;"

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget Recommendations for 2021-23 demonstrate that the Leandro Plan can be fully implemented within existing State resources;

WHEREAS, district leaders, including school board members, stand ready to direct additional State resources to the students and schools with the greatest needs, such that all children have an equal opportunity to realize their full potential;

WHEREAS, receiving a quality education is paramount to catalyzing the full growth and self-actualization of students, families, communities, and our State as a whole;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake Education Partnership Board of Directors requests that the North Carolina General Assembly fully enact the policy and funding reforms included in the Leandro Plan to ensure that all North Carolina students have access to a sound basic education by the 2028 school year.

Adopted by the Wake Education Partnership Board of Directors this 13th day of October, 2021.

BY: Andrew Zukowski, Board Chair

Keith Poston, President