

Resolution in Support of Increased FY26 Elementary and Secondary Education Funding

WHEREAS the Somerville School District, like many school districts across the Commonwealth, is currently experiencing significant financial challenges exacerbated by the limitations of the Chapter 70 funding formula; and

WHEREAS the "hold harmless" provision under the Chapter 70 formula does not accurately account for demographic and socioeconomic changes communities have faced over three decades, sometimes resulting in insufficient funding to meet the needs of their students and provide equitable education; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS), alongside the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), has collaborated to develop a comprehensive K-12 funding proposal aimed at providing immediate relief for FY 26; and

WHEREAS this funding proposal seeks to utilize the surplus funding from the FY24 Fair Share Act to support essential increases in specific state budget line items, including but not limited to Circuit Breaker Reimbursements, and the inflation of the Chapter 70 formula, which directly benefits our district and its students; and

WHEREAS the proposed measures would not only alleviate the financial burden on the Somerville Public Schools but also support the broader educational needs of students across the Commonwealth, particularly in urban districts and those with increased demands for services; and

WHEREAS the Somerville School Committee recognizes the importance of advocating for these budgetary measures to ensure that our students receive the quality education they deserve without compromising essential services and programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Somerville School Committee hereby expresses its strong support for any proposals to help districts meet the upcoming fiscal crisis, including the proposed budgetary measures outlined in the K-12 funding proposal, as put forth by MASS and its partners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somerville School Committee urges all stakeholders, including local legislators and community members, to advocate for the swift passage of these critical funding measures in the FY 26 state budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Massachusetts State Legislature, the Governor's Office, and all relevant educational associations to demonstrate our commitment to securing equitable and adequate funding for the Somerville Public School District and all districts across the Commonwealth.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: April 7, 2025

By: The Somerville School Committee