



# CITY OF OAKLAND

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#LoveLife

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Date: April 7, 2022  
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public  
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan  
Re: **Resolution In Support Of Assembly Bill 1614 (Muratsuchi) That Would Express The Intent Of The Legislature That The State Aspire To Increase The Base Grants For School District Funding To Amounts Equal To The National Average Per-Pupil Funding Level Which Would Increase The Amount Of Funding That Oakland Unified School District Would Receive Annually**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public:

As schools, families, and students in Oakland and throughout California continue to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts need greater support to focus on sustaining and expanding a student-centered recovery. To address the long-standing, systemic funding issues impacting the most vulnerable school districts in our state, ensure schools can meet existing cost pressures, and allow for future growth of instructional programs for all students, this resolution extends support to Assembly Bill (AB) 1614, which would increase school funding by \$4.2 billion.

Existing state law establishes a public school financing system that requires funding for local education agencies be calculated pursuant to a local control funding formula (LCFF). In addition to a base grant, LCFF includes supplemental and concentration grant add-ons that are based on the percentage of pupils who are English learners, foster youth, or eligible for free or reduced-price meals, served by the local education agency.

The LCFF was designed to provide districts with greater discretion over how funds are utilized to educate students at the local level, with an emphasis on providing additional resources to students with the greatest needs. However, LCFF targets look backwards to 2013-14 funding levels, and have not kept pace with the massive growth in fixed costs. It is imperative that California move its education funding levels forward, towards the top ten states in K-12 per-pupil spending through a significant increase in the LCFF.

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) would receive an estimated \$25.47 million in additional funding under AB 1614, according to the Legislative Analyst’s Office. These funds would begin to address some of the long standing, systemic funding issues impacting OUSD. In 2003, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) was placed under state receivership and was forced to accept a \$100 million loan for an estimated \$37 million deficit, which it has been repaying with interest.

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File # 22-0266

Despite state oversight and approval of its budgets, OUSD has not only remained in debt, but it has also closed 16 predominantly Black schools over the past ten years. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the School Board voted, without an equity impact analysis or community engagement, to close a dozen more schools serving predominantly Black and Brown students. OUSD is not alone in striving to serve students and maintain financial sustainability, and all districts would benefit from increasing investments to public education.

AB 1614 would add \$4.2 billion, half of the estimated 2022-23 Proposition 98 ongoing increase, into the existing LCFF. This increase and investment into our education system is an important step toward ensuring the legacy of the LCFF is continued for future generations of schoolchildren.

I respectfully urge your support for this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan