

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 44

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROTECT FUNDING FOR FLORIDA'S K-12 GRADE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1 of Constitution of the State of Florida has declared that the education of children is a fundamental value to the people of the State of Florida, and;

WHEREAS, budget cuts to critical services such as K-12 education are disruptive to the educational system and to the education of the citizens of St. Johns County, and;

WHEREAS, unfunded and underfunded mandates from the Florida Legislature negatively affect the County and its citizens by constraining and distorting funds which would otherwise be properly determined by home rule, and;

WHEREAS, St. Johns County's K-12 educational system is currently underfunded and in great need of assistance; any further cuts to the educational system would prove greatly detrimental to the current state of K-12 education, and;

WHEREAS, necessary spending on education will greatly benefit the County as a whole, as it will decrease the need for other social programs which drain the tax revenue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners hereby finds and determines that:

1. The St. Johns Board of County Commissioners hereby petitions the State Legislature to review current statewide spending and allocation of tax dollars to determine the availability of funds to allocate to and adequately fund the State's K-12 educational system, including the St. Johns County School District;
2. The St. Johns Board of County Commissioners requests that the Legislature consider methods of generating revenue, if necessary, to protect and enhance the State's K-12 educational system;
3. The St. Johns Board of County Commissioners requests that the Legislature avoid cutting the budget for the State's K-12 educational system;
4. The St. Johns Board of County Commissioners requests that the Legislature restructure and reprioritize funding for currently unfunded and underfunded mandates, including any unfunded and underfunded mandates that pertain to K-12 education.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 17th day of February 2009.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

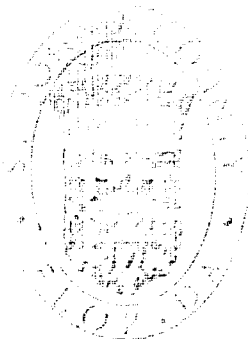
By: *Cyndi Stevenson*
Cyndi Stevenson, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: *Patricia Ale Grande*
Deputy Clerk

Effective Date: 02-17-09

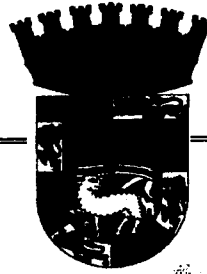
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St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

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February 17, 2009

Dear County Leaders:

Attached, please find a Resolution in support of educational funding passed by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners on February 17, 2009.

As indicated in the attached Resolution, the Board feels strongly our public education system must be funded and additional sources of revenue must be found so school funding does not incur further reductions. Finding additional sources of revenue within the existing budget or generating additional revenue would be preferable to continuing to reduce school funding.

As you are aware, public education in Florida continues to be threatened by reductions in funding. The consequences of reductions will negatively impact future generations beyond the current economic crisis and will have serious community consequences far exceeding those resulting from other program/service reductions. As a result, we hope you will join us in encouraging our Legislature to give educational funding the highest priority possible.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Stevenson, Chair

cc: Commissioner Ron Sanchez
Commissioner Mark P. Miner
Commissioner Phil Mays
Commissioner Ken Bryan
Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
Dr. Joseph Joyner, Superintendent, St. Johns County School District