

Resolution Calling for Increased Chapter 70 Aid for Fiscal Year 2025

WHEREAS, Chapter 70 of the General Laws provides a structure for allocation of school aid based on Foundation Budgets that reflects the needs and costs for Massachusetts school districts, and

WHEREAS the "Foundation inflation index" is an essential element of the school aid formula needed to maintain the purchasing power of district Foundation Budgets, and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 70 Section 2 definition of the Foundation inflation index limits each annual adjustment to no more than 4.5 percent when inflation exceeds that amount, and

WHEREAS, application of that limit or cap on the Foundation inflation index in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 has reduced the base used to calculate Foundation Budgets for fiscal year 2025 and future years by about 6 percent below what is needed to maintain the purchasing power of Massachusetts schools, and

WHEREAS, a legislative change is needed (1) to fully reflect recent inflation in the Chapter 70 definition of the Foundation inflation index for fiscal year 2025 and (2) to eliminate the cap in future years, so as to restore the purchasing power of district Foundation budgets to reflect the intended resource allocations of the Student Opportunity Act, and

WHEREAS, as a minimum aid district, Somerville only benefits from the aid amount per pupil, and a higher minimum aid will be necessary to ensure that no school district or student falls behind.

THEREFORE: be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerville School Committee, on behalf of all MA schools, calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor to (1) amend Chapter 70 Section 2 of the General Laws to provide a Foundation Inflation Index for Fiscal Year 2025 that fully adjusts for inflation occurring since the start of the Student Opportunity Act and to eliminate the upper limit on the Foundation inflation index for all future years, and (2) for fiscal year 2025, to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act including Foundation aid that fully accounts for inflation that has occurred since the passage of that act. And be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerville School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor to increase the amount per pupil given to minimum aid districts.

And be it further RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Somerville State delegation and the Governor of Massachusetts.