

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia requires that “[t]he General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained”, and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia provides in part that “[t]he General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions”, and

WHEREAS, Section 22.1-88 of the Code of Virginia provides that the funds available to a school board of a school division for the establishment, support and maintenance of the public schools in that division shall consist of federal, state, and local funds appropriated for and apportioned to such school board, and

WHEREAS, per pupil state funding for public education has been reduced by more than 13% since 2009, and

WHEREAS, neither the requirements of the Standards of Learning and of No Child Left Behind, nor the overall costs of operating the public schools have been reduced, and

WHEREAS, state funding for public education does not reflect the true cost of constructing, staffing, equipping, operating and maintaining schools that perform at the level needed to meet the requirements of the Standards of Quality and the Standards of Learning, and

WHEREAS, none of the \$544.8 million FY2011 budget surplus has been proposed to be allocated to K-12 public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albemarle County School Board respectfully requests the Governor to allocate a fair share of the \$544.8 million FY2011 budget surplus to K-12 public education, to begin to restore funds cut from K-12 public education in Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011.