


BENTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Making  Difference for All Students



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RESOLUTION OF THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN SUPPORT OF A BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM HOLD HARMLESS LEGISLATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee and has impacted school districts across the state; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with Tennessee State Board of Education requirements, will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 2020-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Program (BEP) is the funding formula through which state education dollars are generated and distributed to Tennessee schools; and

WHEREAS, Student enrollment (average daily membership) is the primary driver of funds generated by the BEP; and there are 47 BEP components, most of which are based on student enrollment; and the funds generated by the BEP are divided into state and local shares for each of the three major categories: instructional, classroom and non-classroom; and

WHEREAS, because of COVID-19, it is likely that many families across the state may remove their students from public schools during the 2020-2021 school year and choose other learning options; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools may see a decrease in attendance in the 2020-2021 school year as families take precautions to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is a one-year lag in how enrollment affects BEP funding amounts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved unanimously by all of the Board Members on this 8th day of September 8, 2020 that the Benton County Board of Education:

Supports and respectfully requests that BEP funding will not decrease for the 2021-2022 school year. The Benton County Board of Education requests the BEP allocation amounts provided to districts for the 2021-2022 school year be equal to or greater than the allocations for the 2020-2021 school year. The BEP allocations should not be negatively impacted based on student ADM of the 2020-2021 school year.

Joey Cooper, Chairman

District 5

Robert Livingston, Vice Chairman

District 2

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Justin Thornton, Board Member

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Mark Hargis, Board Member

District 2

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