

RESOLUTION 45-17

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SR-100 (ESTABLISHES SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS): EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY & FAIR FUNDING FOR NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS PROPOSED BY SENATE PRESIDENT STEVE SWEENEY

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Clayton, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, eight years ago, the School Funding Reform Act promised adequate funding to offer equal educational opportunities for all of New Jersey's schoolchildren - regardless of where they live;

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act offered the promise of making real the constitutional duty of offering a "thorough and efficient" education for each and every school and that school aid would be given fairly and equitably statewide based on a formula that took into account each municipality's property tax base, its ability to pay, increases and decreases in enrollment and any special needs of the children;

WHEREAS, due to political compromises over time, New Jersey's school aid funding has grown less fair and less adequate, year after year;

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the most efficient and effective remedy to this inadequacy, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, have been working on a plan to restore fairness and equity to New Jersey's school aid formula;

WHEREAS, SR-100 establishes the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness which has passed the Senate with bipartisan support;

WHEREAS, this committee will study the adjustment aid process, the enrollment growth cap and other provisions set forth by the 2008 funding law to determine what revisions are needed to bring all school districts to full funding over a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principle and the real-life goal of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness would be to bring fairness to the way we allocate school aid, and set New Jersey firmly on the path to full, fair and adequate funding in every school district in the state so that every child is afforded an equal opportunity for a quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Clayton, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, that Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness set forth by Senate President Sweeney examine the issue of inequities in state education aid and consider the impact that adjustment aid and enrollment caps have on such inequities.

ADOPTED at a regular council meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Clayton, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, which was held on January 26, 2017.

BOROUGH OF CLAYTON

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TOM BIANCO, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Newcomb', written over a horizontal line.

CHRISTINE NEWCOMB, Clerk