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Guilford Education Alliance and Other Boards Adopt Resolution Supporting Full Funding of North Carolina Public Schools

Guilford County, North Carolina: As the budget process is moving forward in the General Assembly, Guilford Education Alliance invited the Guilford County Board of Education, the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, the Board of the PTA Council, and the Board of the Guilford County Association of Educators to approve a Resolution Requesting Full Funding of North Carolina Schools. At this critical time in our state with many demands for expenditures of public tax dollars, there is no greater need than the continued commitment to the education of our students. Following is a copy of the Resolution as approved:

Resolution Requesting Full Funding of North Carolina Schools

Whereas, a strong public education system provides well-educated citizens to vote, pay taxes, support local industry, establish infrastructure, and promote community health; and,

Whereas, a strong public education system contributes to good quality of life in our state, draws new residents and industry, and reduces criminal activity, and,

Whereas, the North Carolina Supreme Court twice ruled (first in 1997, then in 2004) that every child in North Carolina has a constitutional right to "an equal opportunity to receive a sound basic education" and to achieve that requires that every school must have the resources necessary to provide every student with an equal opportunity to receive a sound basic education (*Leandro v. State of North Carolina*, 95 CVS 1158 (Apr. 2002)).

Whereas, the percent of the State budget spent on K-12 public education has declined from 52% in 1971 to 35% in 2010; and,

Whereas, the percentage of Guilford County School's budget funded by the State has decreased from 65% in 2000/01 to 56% in 2010-11, resulting in teacher lay-offs and increased class sizes; and,

Whereas, the phase-out of stimulus moneys and the Governor's proposed cuts of 5% and 10% for 2011-2012 for Guilford County Schools, will result in further teacher layoffs and additional increases in class sizes; and,

Whereas, A recent report finds North Carolina 46th in funding its schools and 45th in teacher pay; and,

Whereas, the loss of teachers' income will hurt their families and mean lower tax revenue for the State of North Carolina, and,

Whereas, the future of our state and nation depends upon the education of our young people, particularly in the increasingly challenging Global Economy in which our students will compete,

BE IT RESOLVED that the **Guilford County Board of Education, the Board of Guilford County Commissioners, the Board of Directors of the Guilford Education Alliance, the Guilford County PTA Council, and the Guilford County Association of Educators** supports funding of North Carolina's public schools to provide the Constitutionally required sound basic education so that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her educational potential. We petition the North Carolina legislature and the Governor to provide funding to fully support our public schools in order to restore public education to the priority it previously had and continues to deserve.