

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 20-18

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

WHEREAS, school funding in California has experienced severe limitations in what was once the main source of funding for schools due to the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, the property tax;

WHEREAS, while the intent of Proposition 13 is to help homeowners, a loophole in the system permits major commercial and industrial properties to avoid regular reassessment, which provided a financial advantage to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding;

WHEREAS, the *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act* does not affect property taxes for homeowners or renters because the initiative exempts all residential property;

WHEREAS, academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that nearly 80 percent of the reclaimed revenue will come from just 8 percent of large properties;

WHEREAS, per-pupil support, which relies on state funding, has declined from the top 10 in the nation to the bottom quarter;

WHEREAS, California's cost of living is among the highest in the nation, school funding in California is \$2,400 per pupil less than the national average and \$10,000 below the top-funded states;

WHEREAS, staffing ratios for teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, and administrators in California rank at the bottom in the nation;

WHEREAS, public schools in California face challenges in providing an equitable and fair education for a student population with vast differences in language, income, parental education level, and other social, educational, and economic factors;

WHEREAS, research has proven that investments in high needs students early on in their schooling raises achievement levels, lowers poverty, and produces a more productive workforce;

WHEREAS, estimates by academic researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) have identified that reassessing commercial property will raise \$12 billion in property tax revenue every year for local schools, cities and counties;

WHEREAS, California should be a leader in innovation by educating the next generation of students to compete in the global economy;

WHEREAS, the current failure to close the commercial property loophole has led to poor land use and inflated land values, particularly limiting the ability to provide adequate high-density housing and land use;

WHEREAS, the *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act* is on the November 2020 ballot;

WHEREAS, the measure is projected to provide \$4.5 billion annually for K-14 schools;

WHEREAS, the measure will provide funding to all school districts, in addition to Proposition 98 funding, following the local control funding formula to all students in all districts;

WHEREAS, the *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act* will also provide billions in funding yearly for cities, counties, and special districts in locally controlled revenues for affordable housing, parks, libraries, emergency responders, health and human services, libraries, and public infrastructure;

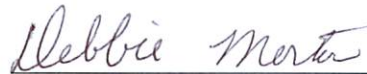
WHEREAS, the *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act* will improve land use, provide a direct tax break to small businesses, and level the playing field between neighboring commercial property owners; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vista Unified School District endorses the Schools and Communities First Funding Act for a ballot measure in November 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Vista Unified School District at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of February, 2020.



President, Board of Trustees
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Clerk, Board of Trustees
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT