

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE CITY OF
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the original Department of Education (hereinafter "Department") was created in 1867 to collect information on schools and teaching that would help the States establish effective school systems; and

WHEREAS, in 1890, with the passage of the Second Morrill Act, in 1917, with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act, and in 1946, with the passage of the George-Barden Act, the Department was responsible for administering support for the original system of land-grant colleges and universities, vocational education, and began focusing on home economics training for high school students; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of anti-poverty and civil rights laws in the 1960s and 1970s — specifically with the passage of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — began the Department's of ensuring equal access and prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex, and disability and made civil rights enforcement a fundamental and long-lasting focus of the Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which provided a comprehensive set of programs, including Title I program of Federal Aid to disadvantaged children to address the problems of poor urban and rural areas, and that same year Congress passed the Higher Education Act, which authorized assistance for postsecondary education, including financial aid programs for needy college students; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Congress established the Department as Cabinet level agency in the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, the Department plays an important role in the ongoing national dialogue over how to improve the results of our education system for all students by raising national and community awareness of the educational challenges confronting the Nation, and disseminating the latest discoveries on what works in teaching and learning, and helping communities work out solutions to difficult educational issues; and

WHEREAS, the Department is also responsible for administering programs for children the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) by: (1) providing federal funding to states; (2) monitors state compliance; (3) issues guidance regulations; (4) handles disputes and enforcement; and (5) collects and analyzes data on special education; and

WHEREAS, although public education is primarily a State and local responsibility and federal contribution to elementary and secondary education is about 8 percent, the

Department administers grant funding programs to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness, to foster educational excellence, and to ensure equal access; and

WHEREAS, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Suffolk Public Schools received federal Impact Aid, Medicaid, JROTC and other federal funds (e.g. Title I, II, III, IV and 6B) from the Department in the total sum of \$1,092,000.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia expresses its support for the U.S. Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Mark Warner, and Congresswomen Jen Kiggans.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2025.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Approved as to both form and content:

Wendell M. Waller, Esquire
School Board Attorney