



## **NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION REGARDING SEQUESTRATION**

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's school children; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts to almost all federal programs including education that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts would impact school districts during the 2013-14 school year, with the exception of the Impact Aid program, with which a reduction would become effective this school year; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as sequestration, would impact education by a reduction in funds of 8.2 percent or more and could result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, possible four-day school weeks, loss of extracurricular activities, and teacher and staff lay-offs; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would impact almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, and more; and

WHEREAS, The New Mexico School Boards Association's member districts, as well as other public schools, would be impacted nationwide by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss from just three programs alone – Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start – that serve a combined 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and state and local funding for education continues to be impacted by budget cuts and lower local property tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration, as New Mexico's School Districts have already implemented cuts commensurate to state and local budget conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Mexico School Boards Association Board of Directors and all 89 member Boards of Education urge Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to the Honorable Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education and Members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation

ADOPTED BY THE GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS' BOARD OF EDUCATION THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012

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Craig Ford, President

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Maria E. Saenz, Vice President

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Jennifer Viramontes, Secretary

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Daniel Castillo, Board Member

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Gloria Irigoyen, Board Member

Sample Press Release  
(After a School Board Passes a Resolution)

\_\_\_\_\_ **School Board Urges Congress to Stop Harmful Budget Cuts**

DATE

CITY, STATE - Federal education programs face more than an eight percent budget cut next year unless Congress intervenes; and, the \_\_\_\_\_ school board has adopted a resolution urging Congress to stop these across-the-board cuts that would have a detrimental impact upon the school district.

The across-the-board cuts to federal education programs that benefit the \_\_\_\_\_ school district would occur under a process called sequestration (defined as the cancellation of budgetary resources) that was enacted under the Budget Control Act of 2011. For the \_\_\_\_\_ school district, a budget cut of 8.2 percent in federal funding would mean \_\_\_\_\_ [e.g. larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, less access to intervention programs, summer school and after school programs, less extracurricular activities, and teacher/staff lay-offs-- INCLUDE EXAMPLES PERTINENT TO YOUR DISTRICT].

Nationwide, sequestration would cut education funding by more than \$4 billion, and would affect the \_\_\_\_\_ school district's budget by more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ at a time when states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts.

"Given the budget cuts and adjustments our local community has made in recent years, there is simply very little, if anything else, left to cut," said \_\_\_\_\_. "Any further cuts in education funding could adversely affect the quality of our education programs. For example, some of the courses and programs that could be eliminated or curtailed would include \_\_\_\_\_...."

The resolution adopted urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

Currently, bipartisan negotiations are underway in Congress to develop an alternative to sequestration. The \_\_\_\_\_ school board's resolution indicates the community's awareness of this critical issue and is being forwarded to members of Congress to urge their support to avert the sequester.

A copy of the resolution is attached.

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