

EQUALIZED BASE REVENUE LIMIT FUNDING

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1991

Reviewed by Board of Managers March 2012

- WHEREAS, The California State PTA believes all children and youth should have equal opportunities to develop and reach their maximum potential; and
- WHEREAS, The California State PTA was foresighted in adopting the resolution, “Adequate and Equitable State School Finance System,” at its 1987 annual state convention to redress inequity in state school funding; and
- WHEREAS, A California Superior Court* in 1974 gave the State Legislature six years to reduce disparities in wealth related general purpose revenue to within “considerably less than \$100” per pupil; and
- WHEREAS, A subsequent 1983-84 Superior Court* decision allowed the \$100 per pupil disparity to be increased by annual cost of living adjustment increases, and the current allowed disparity now amounts to \$268 per pupil; and
- WHEREAS, Over 70% of California’s school districts receive Base Revenue Limit funds below the statewide average; and
- WHEREAS, This disparity in funding from the state can result in a variance from district to district of thousands of dollars for a classroom of 30 children; and
- WHEREAS, In 1989-1990, the education of a total of 3,847,932 of California’s 4.6 million public school students was and continues to be funded below the statewide average; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts actively seek enactment and swift implementation of legislation to raise the Base Revenue Limit funding to the statewide average for all K-12 public school students currently funded below the statewide average.

* These decisions were rendered in the trial and retrial of the Serrano v. Priest school funding equalization case.

###

Continued on next page

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The 1987 California State PTA “Adequate and Equitable State School Finance System” resolution background summary statement concluded that “The struggle to ensure equal access to optimum opportunity is not over. PTA should remain a leader in the effort to achieve an adequate and equitable state school finance system.”

The Base Revenue Limit is the amount of money per ADA (Average Daily Attendance) collected from local property taxes and state aid, which the state pays into each school district’s general fund. The current allowable disparity in wealth-related general purpose revenue is \$268 per ADA.

Because of the original variations in school funding formulas, which were “grandfathered” into the current system, the disparities in funding from district to district may vary by more or less than the \$268. To achieve equity, the state must re-examine its current funding of each child’s education to ensure that all students in this state have a fair and equal opportunity for educational achievement.

In the 1989-90 school year, over 70% of California’s public school districts received Base Revenue Limit funds below the statewide average. That means a total of 3,847,932 of California’s 4.6 million public school students were and continue to be funded below the statewide average for their education.

The disparity in funding from district to district can total thousands of dollars for a classroom of 30 children. This creates enormous problems for many school districts in attempting to provide educational programs and services comparable to neighboring school districts.

Parents in California expect and demand that their children have equal access to educational opportunities. We must ask ourselves, “Should the education of a child in one school district be worth more or less than the education of a child in another school district merely because of an unfair Base Revenue Limit funding formula?”