

# THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

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## RESOLUTION ON SEQUESTRATION

- WHEREAS,** a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's schoolchildren; and
- WHEREAS,** the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision, known as sequestration, that would impose a \$1.2 trillion across-the-board cut to almost all federal programs, including a cut of more than \$4 billion to federal education appropriations; and
- WHEREAS,** these across-the-board cuts would become effective January 2, 2013 and would begin to impact school districts during the 2013-14 school year; and
- WHEREAS,** based on 2012 funding levels, sequestration would result in more than \$173 million being cut from Florida's education programs in the first year and the reductions would remain in effect over the 10-year sequestration period; and
- WHEREAS,** sequestration funding cuts to Florida education programs include, but are not limited to, more than \$65.8 million cut from Title I, more than \$52.2 million cut from Special Education, more than \$11.62 million cut from Career and Technical Education, more than \$10.1 million cut from Improving Teacher Quality, more than \$3.3 million cut from English Language Acquisition, and more than \$2 million cut from School Improvement; and
- WHEREAS,** sequestration would also impact school construction by cutting federal payments by 7.6% for certain Qualified School Construction Bonds, Build America Bonds, and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds issued during the economic stimulus; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to cuts to education programs, sequestration would cut federal discretionary funding in other areas that would directly impact the health and education of Florida's children, including, but not limited to, a cut of more than \$24.5 million from Florida Head Start programs and more than \$2.8 million in Florida Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants; and
- WHEREAS,** federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and total state FEFP funding has been reduced by more than \$1 billion since state Fiscal Year 2010-2011; and
- WHEREAS,** Florida, still struggling with the economic impacts of the Great Recession, has very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration;
- WHEREAS,** sequestration would negatively impact the School District of Clay County in that there would be a \$684,367.00 reduction in Exceptional Student Education/IDEA grant funding which amount is desperately needed to pay partial or full salaries for teachers, therapists, counselors, behavior interventionists and paraprofessionals as well as funding for materials and other services for students with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** there would be an additional loss of Title I funds to the School District in the amount of \$397,863.00 which amount would normally be used to pay for additional

supplemental services, technology upgrades, instructional materials, supplies, reading coaches, math coaches, professional development and tutoring programs;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The School Board of Clay County, Florida 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.

**ADOPTED AND UNANIMOUSLY EXECUTED**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012, in Green Cove Springs, Florida, by