

Proposed Resolution
of the
City of Minneapolis

By Benson

Supporting funding to provide a quality education for the Community of Minneapolis.

Whereas, education is the cornerstone of a successful community and vital to its economic competitiveness through its ability to provide an educated workforce; and

Whereas, a strong education system is the cornerstone of democracy and vital to the quality of life in Minneapolis; and

Whereas, a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (*Government's Role in Early Childhood Development, September 2003*) found a high rate of return for dollars invested in early childhood development through higher lifetime earnings, higher tax revenues, and lower government transfer payments; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Public School District faces a shortfall of about \$24 million for the 2005 - 2006 school year, and the Governor's proposal to increase school funding is woefully inadequate as it provides only an additional \$4.8 million more to Minneapolis leaving a remaining gap of nearly \$19 million; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Public Schools have a high burden placed on them to serve underprivileged children and children with special needs, as well as many children from very diverse economic, social and racial backgrounds, which may require resources beyond the bounds of traditional education; and

Whereas, education is one of the most valuable assets of our community, yet we fail to adequately reward those who choose one of the most important occupations in our society; and

Whereas, the State should meet its obligation and the promise it made when it passed property tax reforms in 2001 to adequately funding education;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis supports funding for programs like Early Childhood Family Education and Headstart.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis supports special funding and targeted revenue streams to meet the various, and sometimes unique, needs of students in Minneapolis.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis supports an increase in the general education formula that will close the gap between revenues and expenditures in Minneapolis.

Be It Further Resolved that we support raising state taxes, if necessary, to meet our obligation to provide a world-class education for our community.