

1 [Urging a Comprehensive Return to School Plan]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District to develop a**
4 **comprehensive plan for the safe return to in-person learning in accordance with public**
5 **health guidelines.**

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7 WHEREAS, As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, San Francisco public
8 schools have been closed since March 16, 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) serves nearly 54,000
10 students across 128 school sites, more than half of whom qualify for federal free or reduced-
11 cost lunch benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, Educators have had worked tirelessly to bridge learning divides and adapt
13 to the complexities of delivering curriculum through distance-learning; and

14 WHEREAS, SFUSD students are struggling academically, emotionally, and physically,
15 with increasing rates of anxiety and obesity, and

16 WHEREAS, A group of San Francisco pediatricians warned in an editorial that every
17 month of inadequate education can have cumulative and long-term health consequences for a
18 child and will widen racial inequities; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Officer authorized schools for in-person
20 learning, on a rolling basis with approved safety plans on September 21, 2020; and

21 WHEREAS, All San Francisco schools must meet the minimum standards defined in
22 both state guidance and SFDPH's health directive on school reopening before resuming in-
23 person learning, including providing detailed plans on how they will ensure adequate testing
24 and contact tracing for their staff and students; and

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1 WHEREAS, There is strong consensus amongst public health experts, including Dr.
2 Fauci and CDC Director Redfield, that schools can operate in person learning in a safe and
3 responsible way, and opening schools should be the highest priority for any jurisdiction; and

4 WHEREAS, New recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control place high
5 priority on keeping schools open, from kindergarten through 12th grade, saying schools
6 should be both “the last settings to close” and “the first to reopen” because of the critical role
7 they play in providing meals and support services to children; and

8 WHEREAS, CDC guidance is clear that school closures take a disproportionate toll on
9 low-income families; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Education passed a resolution directing the
11 Superintendent to begin reopening in person instruction and services for preschool students,
12 elementary grade students with moderate to severe disabilities, and all other students in
13 grades TK-1 including students in general education no later than January 25, 2021, and to
14 provide a schedule for full elementary reopening by December 8th, 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, The District’s Return Plan 2020-21 would only return a few thousand
16 children to schools by March 22, 2021, more than an entire year after schools closed; and

17 WHEREAS, The District’s Return Plan does not include any crucial return to school
18 timetable for third to fifth grade students, or any middle school and high school students; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is considering a resolution (File
20 201335) urging Governor Gavin Newsom and state health officials to prioritize teachers as
21 essential workers, making them eligible for the first phase of coronavirus vaccines in early
22 2021; and

23 WHEREAS, On December 7, Assemblymember Phil Ting introduced AB10 requiring
24 public schools to reopen under most circumstances during the pandemic when infection rates
25 drop; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco
2 Unified School District to revise the Return to School Plan in accordance with the public health
3 urgency to return children to in-person learning; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges SFUSD
5 leaders in collaboration with educators, other school personnel, and stakeholders to
6 immediately outline any needs -- financial, technical, staffing, operations, facility, safety, public
7 health, training or others -- that could be met through public, private, philanthropic or City
8 support; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
10 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the San Francisco Unified School District Board
11 of Education and the Superintendent.

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