

1 [Supporting United States Senate Bill 4865 (Brown) - Full-Service Community Schools
2 Expansion Act of 2020]

3 **Resolution supporting United States Senate Bill 4865, introduced on October 26, 2020,**
4 **by United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), which would increase funding for the**
5 **federal full-service Community Schools Program from its current level of \$30 million to**
6 **\$1 billion per year by fiscal year 2025, as well as add a grant program for states,**
7 **enhance technical assistance, and promote best practices in Community Schools.**

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9 WHEREAS, According the national Institute for Educational Leadership, a community
10 school is defined as a both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other
11 community resources with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services,
12 youth and community development, and community engagement that leads to improved
13 student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Community schools are an effective, evidence-based strategy for school
15 improvement that have the power to transform high-poverty, low- performing schools into
16 thriving learning environments that support the holistic needs of students, families, and
17 communities alike; and

18 WHEREAS, Locally, San Francisco has benefited from the presence of community
19 school programs at Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
20 Academic Middle School, and through community initiatives like Mission Promise
21 Neighborhood, and the Beacon Centers which are located at over twenty-five sites across
22 San Francisco; and

23 WHEREAS, In January 2021, Supervisors Hillary Ronen and Myrna Melgar, in
24 partnership with School Board Commissioner Kevine Boggess, introduced legislation to
25 establish the Students & Families RISE (Recovery with Inclusive and Successful Enrichment)

1 Workgroup, which will advise the city on post pandemic recovery strategies for schools and
2 create a citywide plan to expand enrichment and academic success services for students and
3 families in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD); and

4 WHEREAS, A central priority of the Students and Families RISE Workgroup will be to
5 develop a vision and plan, based on best practices locally and around the country, to enhance
6 and grow the community school’s model to help entire families recover from the aftermath of
7 the pandemic, as well as bring strong enrichment programs to every school in San Francisco;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, All throughout California, communities have witnessed the damaging toll
10 that prolonged school closures have had on the academic and personal well-being of
11 students, particularly students from low-income and immigrant families who have been
12 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 health and economic crises; and

13 WHEREAS, During the pandemic, individual community schools and systems of
14 community schools have been able to mobilize quickly and effectively to support the social,
15 emotional, physical, and learning needs of students and their families; and

16 WHEREAS, Community schools are demonstrating, from Florida and North Carolina to
17 New York and elsewhere, how their strong relationships, relational trust, agility, and
18 coordination are helping schools and their communities better respond to and recover from
19 the pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, The pandemic has presented an opportunity to redesign public education
21 in a way that ensures that all students have access to the foundational supports necessary for
22 learning to address their physical, social, and emotional needs; that they have enriching, high-
23 quality instruction, access to a full curriculum including the arts, social sciences, foreign
24 language, civic education, and Advanced Placement courses, and to out-of-school time
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1 opportunities; and that their families and communities are actively engaged as important
2 partners in their learning and well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has publicly expressed his support for the Community
4 Schools model and has called to expand community schools through funding in his American
5 Rescue Plan; and

6 WHEREAS, Currently, the federal Full- Service Community Schools program is funded
7 at \$30 million supporting 54 communities, but this amount falls far short of the need and
8 demand for this strategy from communities who want to create community schools both to
9 stabilize families that have been most severely impacted during the pandemic and to
10 accelerate learning; and

11 WHEREAS, The Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act (S. 4865), introduced
12 by Senator Sherrod Brown in November 2020, would meet this need and demand with a
13 significant federal investment in community schools of \$500 million for fiscal year (FY) 2021
14 and increasing to \$1 billion by FY 2025; and

15 WHEREAS, This funding would enable Congress to direct limited resources to the
16 schools and communities where at least 40% of the students qualify for free and reduced-
17 price lunch or are identified by the state as in need of additional support, to optimize the
18 coordination of resources that meet family's basic needs, support the mental health of
19 students, accelerate learning, and support the families' re-entry into the workforce; and

20 WHEREAS, Because federal funding for community schools is currently so small
21 compared to the level of demand in the field, the U.S. Department of Education routinely turns
22 down highly ranked, near-perfect score applications, therefore squandering the opportunity to
23 support communities that are committed and ready to apply this strategy to advance
24 educational equity; and

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1 WHEREAS, Passing and funding the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act
2 would enable hundreds of these communities to coordinate the assets of their schools,
3 families, and community partners for students' immediate and long-term success; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports United States
6 Senate Bill No. 4865, and urges Congress to include full-service community schools as an
7 allowable use of funding for schools and districts in future COVID-19 relief packages; and, be
8 it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
10 County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco's Federal Legislative
11 Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.

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