



## RESOLUTION

### **REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION AIMED AT DECREASING THE LEVEL OF CHILD POVERTY AND RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, policy experts and recent research has led to a consensus that poverty in Wisconsin is a moral crisis that demands action; and

WHEREAS, facts uncovered by a broad-based team show that children are now the poorest Americans and that child poverty is expanding in every region of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities also impact this issue in Eau Claire and across the state. In Wisconsin compared to white children, African American children are almost 5 times more likely to be poor; Latino children are 3 times more likely to be poor; and Native American children 4 times more likely to be poor. The poverty rate for our African American children is 8% above the national average for black child poverty; and

WHEREAS, the study concurred that high rates of poverty are not a result of individual moral failings, that kids are clearly not responsible for their own plight and that poverty is a result of human-made economic and social structures; and

WHEREAS, 42% households in Eau Claire County struggle to cover the costs of living and working at the most basic level and 42% of children in the Eau Claire School District qualify for free or reduced price lunch; and

WHEREAS, childhood poverty contributes to the development of mental illness, substance abuse, incarceration, and chronic disease later in life; which deprives our society of the potential contributions of our citizens and creates significant burdens for our community; and

WHEREAS, the significant social and financial costs of childhood poverty could be decreased by investing in early childhood support; and

WHEREAS, out of these ongoing conversations on poverty emerged bold, but attainable, goals that every person in Wisconsin is invited to endorse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire Area School District requests and supports the efforts of the State of Wisconsin to endorse and support bills introduced into the Senate or Assembly that would achieve the following goals:

- Decrease the level of child poverty and racial disparities by 50% over the next 10 years
- Implement policies and programs at the scale necessary to achieve that goal
- Establish annual, evidence-based evaluation of progress for accountability

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire Area School District supports and encourages ongoing education and opportunity for dialogue about childhood poverty, hunger, and discriminatory economic and social structures in Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire Area School Board will forward a copy of this resolution to state legislators representing Eau Claire County, Governor Tony Evers and local elected officials within Eau Claire County. In addition, the Eau Claire Area School Board will provide a copy of this resolution to other public school districts in close proximity of Eau Claire and the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, requesting their advocacy to support these goals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the School Board of the Eau Claire Area School District has executed this resolution this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2019.

  
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Joe Luginbill, President