

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARREN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**Resolution Urging Increased State Funding
for School District Construction and Renovation Projects**

WHEREAS, the Public School Code assigns local school board directors the duty to provide students with suitable school buildings that are constructed, furnished, equipped, and maintained in a proper manner; and

WHEREAS, the construction, renovation, and repair of school facilities to ensure that they meet the educational and safety needs students and staff can be costly for school districts; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of providing appropriate school facilities, to help school districts pay for a portion of the costs of school construction and renovation, the Department of Education developed the Planning and Construction Workbook, known as PlanCon, a system through which the Commonwealth reimburses school districts, based on need, for a share of their construction costs and oversees and approves a school district's school construction project at each step of the construction process; and

WHEREAS, the line item for the annual PlanCon reimbursements to school districts has been flat-funded at \$296 million since 2011-12 and has decreased by over \$30 million since 2009-10, resulting in a significant backlog of projects in the PlanCon pipeline and a significant delay in reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, this significant delay in state PlanCon reimbursement has created financial hardship for many school districts and the imposition of the state moratorium has created uncertainty for school districts that are in direct need of critical renovations or repairs to fix leaking roofs, failing mechanical and electrical systems, crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, and ADA compliance concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District has began a project known as the Beaty Warren Middle School Renovations in January, 2011 to renovate a middle school to address deteriorating facilities, failing mechanical or electrical systems, ADA compliance concerns, school safety, achieve operational savings, and enhance educational opportunities; the project is currently at Part G of the PlanCon process and the District has begun construction; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District began a project known as the Eisenhower Renovations and Addition (K-12) in October, 2010 to renovate a middle/high school and add on an elementary wing to address deteriorating facilities, failing mechanical or electrical systems, ADA compliance concerns, school safety, achieve operational savings, and enhance educational opportunities; the project is currently at Part H of the PlanCon process and the District has begun construction; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District began a project known as the Sheffield K-12 Additions/Alterations in June, 2012 to add an elementary wing to an existing middle/senior high school to address deteriorating facilities, failing mechanical or electrical systems, ADA compliance concerns, school safety, achieve operational savings, and enhance educational opportunities; the project is currently at Part F of the PlanCon process and the District has accepted bids and is poised to enter into construction contracts; and

WHEREAS, a significant delay in receiving the state reimbursement at Part H of the PlanCon process will force the Warren County School District to borrow additional money, and/or cut programs or services; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to to avoid having to borrow additional money and/or cut programs or services, the Board of School Directors of the Warren County School District (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") desires to urge the General Assembly to take the necessary measures to ensure that school districts are reimbursed for construction and renovation projects in a manner that is both timely and predictable.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Board as follows:

1. The Board hereby urges the General Assembly to uphold its responsibility to provide reimbursement to school districts engaging in needed school construction and renovation projects and to appropriately fund the program to ensure that school districts are reimbursed in a manner that is timely and predictable.
2. The Board encourages the General Assembly to examine and revise the current PlanCon process to save resources for both school districts and the Department of Education while still maintaining a state reimbursement program that ensures the structural and educational integrity of school facilities.
3. The Board directs that a copy of this Resolution be posted on the District's website and submitted to the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, as well as to the elected state senators and representatives of the Warren County School District in the General Assembly.
4. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions of this District which are not in accord with this Resolution are hereby repealed insofar as they affect this Resolution.

Adopted as a Resolution of the Warren County School District this _____, day of _____, 2013.

ATTEST: (seal)

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Secretary

BY: _____
Board President