

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has a responsibility to prepare ALL of our young people to understand a broad range of environmental challenges they will face—from water pollution and drought to air quality, disappearing plant and animal species, and profound challenges resulting from global climate change; and

WHEREAS, students need to become informed citizens with an understanding of science and scientific principles, as well as becoming environmentally literate; and

WHEREAS, while a small number of students in Los Angeles and throughout the state are currently taught environmental literacy, the vast majority have unequal access to environmental education opportunities that engage their natural curiosity, encourage scientific thinking, and teach them valuable critical-thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, science is coming under attack by the federal government, and some states are attempting to pass new laws that would encourage teaching climate change denial; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education supports that core subjects taught in our classrooms should have environmental literacy woven throughout curriculum and instruction via California's adopted Environmental Principles and Concepts; and

WHEREAS, California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson embraces this philosophy, and believes the state should take steps to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's stewards—and top earners; and

WHEREAS, as urbanization and disconnection from nature have grown dramatically, so have mental disorders such as depression; and

WHEREAS, breaking up sedentary behaviors with outdoor classes and exposing kids to alternative forms of moderate physical activity can help break the cycle of the obesity epidemic that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared the nation's number one health problem; and

WHEREAS, children who learn about where their food comes from and experience garden-based education programs are much more likely to eat more fresh produce and thereby live healthier; and

WHEREAS, the state has an obligation to ensure our youth have the opportunity to pursue productive careers in our state's burgeoning green jobs and clean economy workforce; and

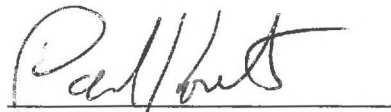
WHEREAS, the state of California should ensure adequate funding for training educators about environmental literacy to prioritize equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance; connect regional and community-based environmental education providers and schools, and leverage private investment that supports STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and career technical education, as well as the help achieve the state's statutory requirements to reduce climate emissions; and

WHEREAS, the state of California should fund environmental literacy programs that will link green job employers with career technical education efforts, facilitate the inclusion of environmental literacy in district plans and budgets, catalyze local and regional partnerships, promote professional learning through the use of high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials and outdoor learning experiences; and


WHEREAS, the state of California should leverage private investment that supports STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and career technical education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill SB 424 (Allen) to increase funding to promote and enhance the environmental literacy of ALL California students.

PRESENTED BY:





PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District



GILBERT CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:





MAY 12 2017

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