BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EDUCATION

Resolution No. 14-008

Support Assembly Joint Resolution 31 Expanding the Federal School Nutrition Program Authored By Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner

WHEREAS, children who experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, decreased attentiveness, increase likelihood of repeating a grade, increase absences and tardiness, and more referrals to special education services; and,

WHEREAS, federal school nutrition programs determine eligibility with a single nationwide income level, which deny many families in high-cost regions access to school meal programs that provide needed breakfast, lunch and afterschool snacks; and,

WHEREAS, a family of four in Berkeley, Calif., needs $58,251V’I to be self-sufficient, whereas, the national standard sets income for a family of four at $42,643. The variance between states is even higher. The Center for Women’s Welfare estimates that a family of four in Opelika, Ala., is self-sufficient with only $29,271; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to increase participation of children in the reduced price group and meet the needs of our community, the Berkeley Unified Nutrition Service Department with the approval of the School Board eliminated the reduced price meal fee of.40 cents in February 1, 2010, thereby fully stretching every dollar needed to meet the mandatory nutritional standards within serious budget limitations; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012- 13, Berkeley Unified School District served 2062 lunches a day (371,137 per year), 6122 daily breakfasts (1,101,901 per year) Thirty-nine percent(39%) of the District qualified for free/reduced meals, helping to

vegetable, and labor costs to produce and serve the meals.

WHEREAS, a similar uniform method applies to the rates at which meals are reimbursed. Whether in California or Alabama, school districts are reimbursed $3.01 for each free lunch served, with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii, which are reimbursed at a higher rate; and,

WHEREAS, California is home to four of the top 10 urban areas in the country with the highest cost of living, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research; now therefore be it