

**RESOLUTION 2019-31
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION**

WHEREAS, the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education is committed to the safety, well-being, and future success of all children in our community;

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that climate change adversely affects students' physical and mental health and negatively impacts student achievement;

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan nor political issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science;

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of credentialed scientists, in the U.S. and abroad, support the finding that climate change is happening and that human activity is a key contributor;

WHEREAS, if left unaddressed, the consequences of climate change will harm all Americans, most especially children and those living in poverty, and saddle future generations with the costly burden of a dangerously damaged planet;

WHEREAS, we believe it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing children throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations;

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice, human rights and equity issue because, while climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

WHEREAS, the National Parent - Teacher Association has declared climate change a children's issue important to the health and welfare of children, and encourages the use of renewable, sustainable energy and technologies, as well as environmentally healthy land-use policies to reduce greenhouse gases and manage hazards to minimize further health problems;

WHEREAS the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education celebrates existing District 11 sustainability initiatives efforts that reduce costs and promote a healthier environment, including geothermal heating and cooling, the use of solar power, and the reduced use of electricity;

WHEREAS the financial impacts of climate change on our communities are projected to grow, potentially utilizing District 11 resources better used for the education of students today and in the future;

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education directs the Superintendent to place a high priority on reducing carbon consumption in making decisions regarding capital improvement, energy use, and transportation, and take actions on climate change and environmental education that are within the purview of the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education calls on legislators to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and caused the official seal of said Colorado Springs School District 11 to be hereunto affixed this 24th day of April, 2019.

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