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## Sample School District/County Office of Education Resolution on Climate Change

**WHEREAS**, schools in California and nationwide have the potential to effect positive, tangible environmental change while preparing students — in their careers and civic life — to be stewards of their communities, the earth and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is broad consensus within the scientific community that human activities contribute to increases in greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a non-partisan issue and local, state and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change presents a series of governance-related challenges for public agencies, including school districts and county offices of education; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a global issue that can and should be addressed locally; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change and extreme climate-related events such as wildfires, floods, extreme heat and public safety power shutoffs — directly impact the physical and economic health of communities in which our students and their families live, while also causing lost learning days; and

**WHEREAS**, California's Fourth Climate Assessment estimates that if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, the average water supply from California's snowpack is projected to decline to 2/3 of historical levels by 2050 and total sea level rise by 2100 is expected to be 54 inches; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Climate Assessment also finds that action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which also release criteria air pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrous oxides and volatile organic compounds — will indirectly improve California's air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 32), called for a reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, yet current projections show California is unlikely to reach the target at the current rate; and

**WHEREAS**, California's agricultural contributions to the U.S. and world economy are impacted by consequences of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative impacts of climate change, including public health and economic consequences, have a disproportionate impact on chronically underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards provides an opportunity for students to engage in real-world inquiry and application of science skills in understanding and addressing climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the clean energy sector presents economic opportunity for students and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of sustainable practices on school campuses, capital investments to improve energy efficiency, and other environmentally mindful purchasing decisions can yield significant cost savings for our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change adaptations of school infrastructure and practices can mitigate the risk of increased natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental initiatives can yield benefits for communities such as safe and healthy transportation to and from school, improved air and water quality, workforce development; and

**WHEREAS**, California's children and youth have demonstrated leadership and expressed an expectation that their representatives will advocate for their communities' well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, California students across many grade levels — including those in their early elementary years and all the way up through high school — strive to be environmentally conscious in their daily lives and to be active and engaged leaders on combating global climate change in their community, both now and in the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, (NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION) establishes the following sustainability and environmental learning goals: (DESCRIBE ANY GOALS OR INITIATIVES SPECIFIC TO YOUR DISTRICT/COUNTY HERE); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, (DISTRICT/COE) is committed to identifying opportunities within our curriculum, and providing additional learning and leadership opportunities where possible, that reflect our students' environmental goals for their civic lives and their academic and professional careers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that (DISTRICT/COE) recognizes that there is increasing demand for a skilled workforce in the clean energy and sustainability sectors, and that the (DISTRICT OR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION) can help meet this demand by providing enriched learning opportunities for our students to prepare for careers in these emerging and important fields; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, (DISTRICT/COE) will seek out creative and collaborative partnerships that connect our students and staff with local community groups, business leaders, associations and city and county government on efforts to make our community more environmentally friendly and promote sustainable practices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that (DISTRICT/COE) endeavors to connect with key stakeholders within the community — including student and youth groups — on the importance of local climate action to gather input and identify additional opportunities for student learning and activism; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that (DISTRICT/COE) calls on the California Department of Education, the California State Board of Education and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide increased opportunities for local educational agencies to promote student learning on the effects of global climate change and identifying solutions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that **(DISTRICT/COE)** also calls on federal entities, such as the U.S. Departments of Education and Energy, to support the efforts of state and local educational agencies to expand their curriculum and opportunities for student learning on climate and environmental literacy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education of **(DISTRICT/COE)** recommends that the provisions of this resolution be reviewed within 12 to 18 months of the date it is passed — by **(DATE)** or sooner — to evaluate the progress that **(DISTRICT/COE)** has made in achieving the goals set forth herein, and to determine what additional steps should be taken to achieve and build on the goals outlined in this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the **(DISTRICT/COE)** governing board directs the clerk or executive officer to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: all student councils in our **(DISTRICT/COUNTY)**, the **(DISTRICT/COUNTY)** employee labor groups or representatives, all **(DISTRICT/COUNTY)** PTO/PTA/Education Foundations, the Superintendent of County Schools, the **(LOCAL)** City Council members, the **(LOCAL)** County Board of Supervisors, relevant local media outlets, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the California State Board of Education, the California School Boards Association, our local California State Legislators, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, and all California members of Congress.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_.

Motion made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second made by: \_\_\_\_\_

List members voting “aye:” \_\_\_\_\_

List members voting “no:” \_\_\_\_\_

List members abstaining: \_\_\_\_\_

List members not present: \_\_\_\_\_