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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, School districts receive funding from the State  
3 as determined by Section 18-8.15 of the School Code; and

4 WHEREAS, Under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Section  
5 18-8.15 of the School Code, school districts may apply funds  
6 received to any fund in which the school district is  
7 authorized to make expenditures by law; and

8 WHEREAS, State funding under Section 18-8.15 of the School  
9 Code may not be allocated proportionally or as needed to  
10 schools within City of Chicago School District 299; and

11 WHEREAS, Some schools in City of Chicago School District  
12 299 are facing staffing issues due to a lack of full-time  
13 teachers; and

14 WHEREAS, Some schools in City of Chicago School District  
15 299 have reported elevated levels of lead in the school's  
16 water; and

17 WHEREAS, 50 schools in City of Chicago School District 299  
18 were closed in 2013, with the long-term effects of those  
19 closures still uncertain; and

1           WHEREAS, Some schools in City of Chicago School District  
2 299 have failed health inspections in previous years,  
3 including the finding of rats and rodent droppings; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2019, it was estimated that one in three  
5 schools in City of Chicago School District 299 had year-long  
6 teacher vacancies; and

7           WHEREAS, In 2020, City of Chicago School District 299  
8 lacked resources to provide for modern e-learning to all  
9 students at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

10           WHEREAS, As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, many students  
11 in City of Chicago School District 299 did not have access to  
12 the Internet to access e-learning resources; and

13           WHEREAS, Attendance for e-learning at some high schools in  
14 City of Chicago School District 299 fell below 50%; and

15           WHEREAS, In January 2022, students walked out of class in  
16 response to the forced reopening of in-person education; and

17           WHEREAS, In March 2022, City of Chicago School District  
18 299 reported an unspent amount of approximately 69% of federal  
19 funds from the American Rescue Plan, funds that were budgeted  
20 for expenditure for the year; and

1           WHEREAS, City of Chicago School District 299 has continued  
2 to receive additional pandemic-related federal and State  
3 funding for the 2022-2023 school year, yet struggles to fill  
4 new interventionist positions at each of its schools; and

5           WHEREAS, In March 2022, City of Chicago School District  
6 299 reported that total school enrollment has been declining,  
7 which under student-based budgeting has led to the loss of  
8 funding for schools with declining enrollment; and

9           WHEREAS, The 2020 United States Census indicates that  
10 around 450,000 school-age students live in the City of  
11 Chicago; however, only 330,411 students were enrolled at the  
12 start of the 2021-2022 school year; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Auditor General is directed  
16 in accordance with subsection (b) of Section 3 of Article VIII  
17 of the Illinois Constitution to make an additional report  
18 covering how City of Chicago School District 299 allocates  
19 funds to schools provided to City of Chicago School District  
20 299 by the State Board of Education under Section 18-8.15 of  
21 the School Code and through other appropriations of funds to  
22 determine whether some schools have been receiving more

1 resources than others; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the additional report shall also cover the  
3 dropout rate per year of students, the number of students  
4 during the COVID-19 pandemic who are no longer enrolled in  
5 City of Chicago School District 299, how the school closures  
6 in 2013 affected funding and students, any additional plans to  
7 aid schools that are failing to provide an adequate education  
8 to their students, and any current plans to re-enroll students  
9 and assist students who have been impacted by the loss of  
10 in-person instruction during the pandemic; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the additional report is not a formal  
12 examination of City of Chicago School District 299's  
13 accounting records, financial situation, or compliance with  
14 some other set of standards; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge City of Chicago School District 299  
16 to cooperate with the Auditor General in the creation of the  
17 Auditor General's additional report.