

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND STUDENTS,
AND SUPPORTING AMERICAN VALUES IN THE
AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**

WHEREAS, the devastating events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001 in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania were tragic occurrences that resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives; and

WHEREAS, these events have brought out the goodness and the compassion of students, school personnel, parents, and families in our schools and across the country; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education joins with all Americans in focusing on the victims, families, and communities who have been most affected by the gravity of these harrowing attacks; and

WHEREAS, during times of crisis, schools provide continuity, stability, and ultimately, safe learning environments where children can begin to assimilate these events; and

WHEREAS, the State Board also supports school personnel as they continue to teach tolerance and acceptance of cultural diversity so our children will become healthy, responsible, and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, a vital function of our schools is to provide children with the essential understanding of the American system of the rule of law, constitutionally protected rights, and self-government; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has adopted substantive policies that specifically address the issues of tolerance, understanding, and our system of self government, including its policies on Safe Schools, Creating Effective Learning Environments, Family Involvement, Character Education, Bullying Prevention, and the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks; and

WHEREAS, a vital strength of our schools is its cultural diversity and its ability to provide a place where children judge one another by who they are and how they act, not by race, religion, or cultural background; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board commends our teachers, administrators, and school support personnel for the outstanding work they have been doing to help children cope with these events since September 11 by cultivating empathy and compassion for all those affected by these crimes and reinforce the American system of self-government; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, through the Michigan Department of Education and its web site, www.state.mi.us/mde, will provide citizens and schools with a clearinghouse of resources that can assist educators, parents, families and students as they deal with these unprecedented events; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education encourages school districts in Michigan to continue to provide quality school environments that promote tolerance and embrace cultural diversity and that reinforce the American system of self-government.