

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

DATE: December 28, 2021
TOPIC: 7.2 – Approval of Resolution supporting Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act
PRESENTER: Dan Pyan – Director of Finance and Operations
REFERENCE TO POLICY/STATUTE: 701 School District Budget

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- a. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was first enacted in 1975 to help ensure all students with disabilities will have access to a free appropriate public education.
- b. With the enactment of IDEA, the United States Congress committed to fund up to 40% of the additional cost of Special Education, promising to provide up to 40% of the national average per pupil expenditure which is currently estimated at \$13,828 by the U.S. Department of Education.
- c. South Washington County Schools has more than a \$19 million per year Special Education Cross Subsidy, meaning \$19 million must come from general education funding to make up for inadequate federal special education funding.
- d. The Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) has provided a resolution of which it hopes all Minnesota school districts pass, that calls for full funding of the IDEA act by Congress.
- e. This resolution shall be shared the MSBA Governmental Relations team and our Congressional representatives.

B. RECOMMENDATION

- a. Administration recommends approval of the attached resolution.



**Sample Resolution in Support of the Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act
Re-introduced on November 16, 2021**

[H.R. 5984](#) and [S. 3213](#)

(December 2021)

WHEREAS, the South Washington County Schools District recognizes the need for a strong investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was first enacted in 1975 to help ensure that all students with disabilities will have access to a free appropriate public education and IDEA's enactment more than 45 years ago, the current federal investment in IDEA is less than 14 percent; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of IDEA, the United States Congress committed to fund up to 40 percent of the additional cost of special education, thereby promising to provide up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure, which is currently estimated at \$13,828 by the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, our nation's school districts face an increased demand for greater resources to fulfill the needs of students under IDEA, including those for students affected by multiple disabilities whose individual education plans require more resources; and

WHEREAS, with each increase in the IDEA child count, the South Washington County Schools Board and others throughout the country continue to adjust their budgets to accommodate this increased need and ensure that each child educated through IDEA receives the appropriate supports, with some school districts dedicating forty percent or more of their general education budgets to special education services; and,

WHEREAS, South Washington County Schools district has a \$ 19,420,693 cross-subsidy for FY 20, which is one part of the statewide cross-subsidy that was more than \$673 million in FY 20, and is expected to grow to \$806 million in FY 25.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Washington County Schools School Board] supports the IDEA Full Funding Act that will help strengthen the federal investment in special education by authorizing a ten-year plan to fully fund the federal share of IDEA; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Washington County Schools Board urges Congress' strong bipartisan support for and passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Washington County Schools Board remains committed to providing students with disabilities and their families the supports they need.