BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: August 9, 2021

Topic: Special Education Inservice

Background Information: The pandemic had a negative impact on some of our students as some of our students have unfinished learning as a result of the challenging 20-21 school year. Research has strongly supported building a focus on building educator expertise as the most efficient and effective way to overcome the negative impact of the pandemic. Investing in building educator expertise can provide benefits long after ESSER funds have been depleted. Special education teachers need to have the same knowledge and abilities as their general education counterparts, and, in addition, they need to understand how to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities. For well over a decade, Student Support Services offered additional days of professional learning for our teachers. In recent years due to a variety of factors, that practice was discontinued. This year we hope to offer multiple options for our teachers to access high-quality, evidence-based professional learning that helps them to support the needs of exceptional learners. With this contract, we will be provided two days each semester that teachers have the option of attending. When available, guest teachers will be provided. We understand not all teachers will be able to attend due to the scheduling and the availability of substitutes so we plan on also offering afterschool training in another proposal.