



Sun Prairie Area
School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

School Board Resolution Support of Increasing Special Education Funding in Wisconsin Public Schools

WHEREAS, Governor Walker's goal of having the best schools in the nation cannot be met at current funding levels, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the 422 local Wisconsin public school districts to support the educational needs of ALL students, INCLUDING those who are differently abled, and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a stated commitment to fund 40% of the costs of supporting students with special needs, but funds merely 15%, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has statutory language to fund over 60% of costs related to these students, but now funds merely 26%, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not increased funding in public school special education categorical aid for a decade but has increased it for private schools using the taxpayer-financed Special Needs Scholarship Program, and

WHEREAS, these special needs vouchers for private schools are paid 100% reimbursement up to \$18,500 and then at a 90% reimbursement rate, and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau recently concluded that because of the historic underfunding by the state and federal governments, public school districts must now fund over \$1 billion to cover the educational costs associated with implementing Individual Educational Programs (IEPs), and

WHEREAS, as a result of this underfunding, districts across Wisconsin must cut critical programs supporting the education of all their students to support the legislatively mandated special education needs, and

WHEREAS, private voucher schools, despite getting increased funding for special needs students, are not required to have certified/licensed special education staff, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Public Schools are required by law to continue serving all special education students in private schools, whether or not they receive a voucher, causing public schools to spend more money to pay for special education teachers, physical/occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, etc., and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Public Schools are held accountable to taxpayers while private schools are not, and

WHEREAS the Sun Prairie Area School District would increase special education funding by a minimum of \$9,967,968 when using the same formula or reimbursement presently used for private schools.

FURTHER, it is believed that Wisconsin public school children are worth reimbursement equal to that of private school children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sun Prairie Area School District calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin State Senate to match the reimbursement rate given to private schools under the legislated Special Needs Scholarship Program by increasing reimbursement for public schools at 100% reimbursement up to \$18,500 and then at a 90% reimbursement rate,

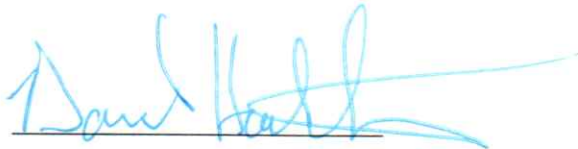
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Education of the Sun Prairie Area School District, have executed this resolution this 27th day of August, 2018.



Steve Schroeder, President



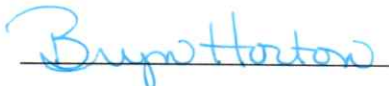
Tom Weber, Vice President



Dave Hoekstra, Treasurer



Carol Sue Albright, Clerk



Bryn Horton, Deputy Clerk



Marilyn Ruffin, Member