



School District of Thorp

605 South Clark Street
P.O. Box 449
Thorp, Wisconsin 54771
www.thorp.k12.wi.us



BOARD RESOLUTION in Support of Increased Special Education Funding in Wisconsin Public Schools

April 17, 2019

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Wisconsin public school districts to meet the educational needs of all students, including students with disabilities; 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 had statutory language to fund over 60% of costs related to these students, but now funds just 25%; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not increased funding in public school special education categorical aid for a decade; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has 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, The School District of Thorp transfers over \$500,000 per year into special education programs from the general fund; and

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

WHEREAS, the School District of Thorp would increase special education funding by about \$7,000 for every additional 1% of state categorical aid; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of Thorp calls on the Wisconsin Legislature to prioritize and significantly increase special education reimbursement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board Of the School District of Thorp, have executed this resolution the 17th day of April, 2019.

Marie Karaba, President

Ty Schneider, Vice President

Dave Burke, Clerk

Jeanette Kodl, Treasurer

Brenda Henke, Member

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