

## **Proposed Resolution by the Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine School Board of Education for the 2019 Delegate Assembly supported by the Wisconsin Association of School Board**

### **Resolution:**

The Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine School District is in favor of WASB's proposal to the Delegate Assembly of increasing the special education categorical aid reimbursement level to not less than 33 percent of prior year eligible costs as a short-term goal, and further supports progressively increasing special education categorical funding at a pace that will allow the reimbursement rate to reach 90 percent within 10 years.

**Rationale:** Under current law, the state covers at least 90 percent of the costs of providing services to children with disabilities who are enrolled in private schools through the special needs scholarship (voucher) program. Meanwhile, the state reimburses public schools' costs for providing services to students with disabilities at a rate of less than 26 percent. Wisconsin has not increased overall funding for public school special education categorical aid for over a decade. As a result of stagnated special education aids, districts across Wisconsin are forced to cut critical programs supporting the education of their non-disabled students to support the legislatively mandated education needs of qualifying students with disabilities.

Specifically, because special education costs have increased faster than other school costs, this has not only resulted in a steadily declining reimbursement rate, it has forced school districts to transfer funds from their general fund (Fund 10) to their special education fund (Fund 27) to cover the shortfalls in special education funding from the state. Under revenue limits, this means schools must reduce funding for regular education programs and services (to pupils without disabilities) in order to provide the programs and services mandated by state and federal law to be provided to students with disabilities under their individualized education plans (or IEPs).

Wisconsin once funded 70 percent of costs related to serving students with disabilities, but now funds less than 26 of those costs. This resolution calls not only for reversing the trend of declining reimbursement rates but for parity in state special education funding for public schools with special education funding provided to private schools that enroll pupils with disabilities using special education scholarships (vouchers).

## **BEECHER-DUNBAR-PEMBINE SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING WASB RESOLUTIONS**

### **2.31 Funding for Children with Disabilities**

The Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine (BDP) Board of Education supports the Wisconsin Association of School Board's (WASB) advocacy of increasing the special education categorical aid reimbursement level to not less than 33 percent of prior year eligible costs as a short-term goal, and further supports progressively increasing special education categorical funding at a pace that will allow the reimbursement rate to reach 90 percent within 10 years. The BDP Board of Education also supports WASB's further support of the following provisions related to funding for children with disabilities:

(2016-6)

- (a) Funding that follows the student rather than being targeted to the district.
- (b) Full federal and state funding for students living in rehabilitation centers and foster homes within the school boundaries.
- (c) Full federal and state aid for mandated special education transportation costs.
- (d) Full state funding for the cost of assistance to students required by law, which is not related to a child's education, including but not limited to nursing assistance, interpreters, auxiliary mechanical devices, physical therapy, psychological evaluations and programming and individualized behavior modification programming.
- (e) Increases in state and federal resources for serving severely emotionally disturbed students. (1995-13)(05-3)
- (f) Streamlined processes for settling special education disputes to minimize legal costs. (1999-6)
- (g) Limitations on legal fees school districts are required to pay attorneys for pupils who prevail in special education disputes. (1999-6)
- (h) The use of federal, state and local resources in a collaborative manner to support transition programs for students with disabilities to achieve better employment and postsecondary opportunities for these students. (2004-17)
- (i) Full state funding for children with high cost/low incidence disabilities, ensuring that the additional resources come from increasing the current special education appropriation. (1995-11) (1999-1)(2001-9)

(j) Full state and federal government funding of services provided by cooperative public agencies for students with the most severe disabilities. (2008-8)

Motion by:

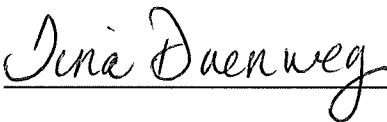
Seconded by:

  
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Board President, Vicki Fick

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Board Vice President, Brian Bousley

  
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Board Clerk, Tina Duenweg

  
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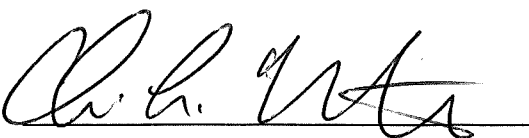
Board Treasurer, Ryan Berger

  
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Board Member, Lee Niven

  
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K-12 Principal, Julie Rittenhouse

  
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Superintendent, Chris Metras