



4850 South 60<sup>th</sup> Street ■ Greenfield, Wisconsin 53220 ■ Phone: 414-855-2050 ■ Fax: 414-855-2051

**RESOLUTION** in Support of Increasing Special Education Funding  
in Wisconsin Public Schools to 90% of the Cost Incurred

**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 had 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 special education scholarship, 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 the rest of their students to support the legislatively mandated special education needs, and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin now has special needs scholarships (vouchers) which benefit students in private schools, and

**WHEREAS**, these vouchers serve children, 75% of whom already were in private schools, and allow private schools to leave children with the greatest special education needs in the public schools, 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, putting public schools out more money to pay for these public school special education educators i.e., teachers, physical/occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, and

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

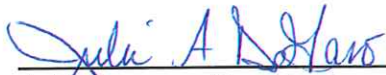
**WHEREAS**, these special needs vouchers for private schools are paid at a 90% reimbursement rate, while students with the greatest special needs in Wisconsin public schools are only funded by a 26% reimbursement rate.

**WHEREAS**, the School District of Greenfield would increase special education funding by approximately \$3,683,000 when using the same percentage of reimbursement (90%) 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 School District of Greenfield calls on Governor Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate to increase reimbursement for public schools to a rate of 90% for special needs students, matching the reimbursement rate given to private schools under the legislated Special Needs Scholarship Program.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board for the School District of Greenfield, have executed this resolution the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2018.



Julie Degaro, President



Kristie Potter, Vice President



Rick Moze, Clerk



Tom Frohna, Treasurer



Michelle Haugen, Member



Andy Misorski, Member



Pam Sierzchulski, Member