

*Loretta K. Kratz  
Thomas Treppe*

RESOLUTION in Support of Increasing Special Education Funding in Wisconsin  
Public Schools to 90% of the Cost Incurred  
September 24, 2018

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the 422 local Wisconsin public school district 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 26.79%, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not increased funding in public school 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, Wisconsin now has special needs scholarships (vouchers) which benefit students in private schools, 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 at 26% reimbursement rate.

WHEREAS, the Royall School District would increase special education funding by \$379,804 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 Royall School District 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 the private schools under the legislated Special Needs Scholarship Program.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board for Royall School District, have executed this resolution the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September.

Motion by:

*Doug Waterman*

Seconded by:

*Ray Walz*

President:

*Thomas Treppe*

Clerk:

*Loretta Kratz*