

Board of Education

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE**



Dream • Believe • Achieve

**Resolution To Support Increased Special Education Reimbursements in the
2019-2021 Biennial Budget**

WHEREAS, 14.2% of the students in the School District of La Crosse qualify for special education services, and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with educating students who require special education services continue to rise, and

WHEREAS, during the 2018-2019 school year, the School District of La Crosse transferred approximately \$10,000,000 from the district's general fund to the special education fund, and

WHEREAS, the Joint Finance Committee on May 23, 2019 included in the proposed budget an increase of reimbursement from 24.5% to 26.3% for the 2019-2020 budget year and 30% for the 2020-2021 budget year, and

WHEREAS, an increase to 30% would provide nearly \$900,000 in flexibility to the School District of La Crosse, and

WHEREAS, a commitment to additional reimbursement would permit the district to work towards ensuring there is a full-time counselor, and a full-time social worker, and a full-time school psychologist in each building, and

WHEREAS, the current Joint Finance Committee proposal to increase reimbursement to 30% in the second year of the biennium will provide this financial flexibility first during the 2021-2022 school year, and

WHEREAS, the need to support students and families with additional counselors, social workers, and school psychologists is imminent.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education for the School District of La Crosse requests an amendment to the proposed budget to include a 30% reimbursement in the FIRST year of the budget followed by an additional 3% in the second year of the biennial budget to ensure that the proposed reimbursement increase will actually have a financial impact during the 2019-2021 biennial budget timeline.