

## 2023 Resolution #2

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes that it has the responsibility under the the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that the Columbus School District has adequate financial resources to provide Special Education services for all students who may need them while enrolled in our district; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes the significant expenditures that are dedicated to Special Education services in the district each fiscal year and the positive impact of Special Education services in the lives of students who access them in our district; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes those expenditures increase each year with rising costs and those expenditures which are not reimbursed by the state will have to be diverted from general funds that broadly support the education of all students in our district; and

WHEREAS, the low categorical aid reimbursement rate for Special Education services on prior year services from the State of Wisconsin which is provided to school districts has been in decline for decades and, despite a recent nominal increase, Columbus and districts around the state must provide a larger portion of the costs for Special Education services each year from general funds to help students to do their best academically in Columbus or statewide.

THEREFORE, the Columbus Board of Education calls on Governor Evers, The Wisconsin State Assembly and The Wisconsin State Senate to immediately increase the special education categorical aid to 60% with a goal to eventually reimburse 90% of prior year eligible costs for districts in Wisconsin.