FOR DISCUSSION

Lisle Community Unit School District 202
Board of Education Meeting
November 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution for Federal Funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- At the October IASB DuPage Division Meeting and in the recent federal report, Senior Governmental Relations Director, Kristin Fitzgerald, shared an introduction to the 40 by 40: Fulfill the IDEA Promise campaign. There is a lot of good background of information there and in the article she wrote for the November/December 2026 IASB Journal. The Take Action page of IASB's website has been updated to include tools to use to educate Boards and to pass a Board Resolution about this campaign. The hope is that all school districts in Illinois will join in pushing Congress to fulfill their promise.

- Based on the FY2026 audit, IDEA funding covered about 10.5% of our direct special education costs, which aligns with the "10 percent" language in the draft resolution.

  FY2026 direct special education expenditures: $7,515,866 (FY2025: $7,395,871)
  • Special Education Programs: $3,575,444
  • Special Education Programs Pre-K: $227,218
  • Special Education Private Tuition: $1,054,612
  • Payments to Other Districts, Special Education Programs: $417,978
  • Payments to Other Districts, Special Education Tuition: $2,030,191
  • Related MR/SS benefits: $210,423

  FY2026 federal IDEA revenue: $788,499 (FY2025: $916,244)
  • IDEA Flow-Through: $716,898
  • IDEA Room and Board: $61,640
  • Preschool Flow-Through: $9,961

  Percent of cost covered by IDEA:
  • FY2026: 10.5%
  • FY2025: 12.4%
  • 40% of FY2026 costs would be about $3.0M, roughly $2.2M more than we received.

- Below is a Draft Resolution in support of the 40 percent funding.

- The Resolution will be discussed at our November Board meeting and on the agenda for approval at our December Board meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTION FOR DECEMBER: That the Board of Education Approve the December 17, 2026 Resolution that Congress Fund 40% of the Cost of Special Education Services under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by 2040 and forward the approved Resolution to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

DRAFT
Resolution Urging Congress to Fulfill Its Promise to Fund 40 Percent of IDEA Costs

A Resolution of the Lisle Community Unit District (CUSD) 202 School Board Urging the United States Congress to Fulfill Its Longstanding Commitment to Fund 40 Percent of Special Education Costs Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 to ensure that students with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, Congress made a clear commitment in IDEA to fund 40 percent of the cost to educate students to help cover the excess costs of providing special education services; and

WHEREAS, despite this long standing promise, federal IDEA funding has consistently fallen far short — in 2027 providing just 10 percent of the cost nationally — leaving the State of Illinois, local school districts, and taxpayers to subsidize the federal government's unmet obligation; and

WHEREAS, students covered by IDEA have grown exponentially from 3.7 million in 1975 to 8.3 million students today; and

WHEREAS, statewide Illinois school districts collectively face a statewide special education shortfall exceeding $1.4 billion annually, requiring local districts to redirect general education revenues to meet mandated special education needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding shortfall places significant and increasing pressure on local budgets, widens funding imbalances among school districts, undermines general education programs, and forces reductions in staffing, class size initiatives, mental health supports, and other essential student services; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the federal promise of 40 percent IDEA funding would provide substantial relief to Illinois school districts, reduce reliance on local levies, stabilize district budgets, and strengthen educational outcomes for all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Lisle CUSD 202 hereby urges the United States Congress to:

1. Fulfill its statutory commitment to fund 40 percent of IDEA special education costs by supporting annual increases that result in 40 percent by the year 2040;

2. Ensure IDEA funding remains stable and protected from across-the-board cuts.

3. Publicly reaffirm the federal government's responsibility to fully fund (40%) mandated special education services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Superintendent are directed to share this resolution with:

- The Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation representing the school district;
- The Illinois Association of School Boards; and
- The State legislators representing the school district.

ADOPTED by the School Board of Lisle Community Unit School District 202 on this 17th day of December, 2026.

Attested by: _____, Board President

Attested by: _____, Board Secretary