

*Livonia Public Schools
Board of Education
April 21, 2025*

*Restore Full IDEA Funding
RESOLUTION*

WHEREAS, public education is the cornerstone of our democracy, providing fundamental skills and opportunity to children across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, In the decade following the Great Recession, students across the U.S. lost nearly \$600 billion from the states' disinvestment in their public schools; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, both state and federal funding for public schools was already failing to meet the critical needs of students across the country; and,

WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 pandemic, students have needed additional academic, social, emotional, and mental health support through targeted programming and additional personnel, enhanced professional development opportunities, new technology as well as critical updates to school facilities; and,

WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that increased education funding positively affects academic performance, increases graduation rates, and impacts future earnings; and,

WHEREAS, when Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high quality education; and,

WHEREAS, the financial pledge for IDEA has never been met and is currently funded at approximately 10.7 percent, leaving a gap of billions of dollars needed for students; and,

WHEREAS, Livonia Public Schools School District is proud to serve a student population that includes approximately 13 percent of students with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, when Livonia Public Schools' costs to deliver the important services required under IDEA are not properly funded by the federal government, it requires us to reallocate money from other programs to make up for it; and,

WHEREAS, the federal underfunding of IDEA has negatively impacted the academic opportunities of all students for generations, not just those with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Livonia Public Schools School District as follows:

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education calls on Congress to immediately pass the IDEA Full Funding Act (S.2217/H.R. 4519) which would create a 10-year mandatory path to fully fund IDEA; and,

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education calls on the state legislature to provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding increases to districts to mitigate the harm caused by decades of underfunded schools.

*Madeline Acosta, Secretary
Board of Education*