

## Request for Additional Special Education at Middle School

### Current Challenges:

- Our current allocation of 3 Special Education resource teachers results in one grade level being split by two teachers
- In 7<sup>th</sup> grade in particular, splitting this level results in special education teachers not having face to face instructional time with students on their caseload
- Teachers do not directly support students in all classes of identified special education eligibility (Reading, Writing, Math) and this support is often provided by paraprofessionals
- Our incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade group will need a replacement reading, replacement writing and replacement math class. This year we started the year without that need, but have added replacement writing and replacement math. To cover these changes we have used paraprofessional support rather than a certified resource teacher.
- The current allocation for aides assigned to special education support is 5 FTE

### Proposal:

- Increase Resource Teachers to 4 FTE
- Reduce instructional aides to 4 FTE

### Benefits

- All special education teachers will provide support to students on their caseload in areas of identified eligibility in Reading, Writing and Math
- Increases flexibility in resource teacher schedules to allow for pull out instruction in reading, writing and math
- Instructional aides will continue to provide support in Science, SS and specials
- Increases communication opportunities between classroom teachers and special education teachers in the areas of a student's eligibility (Reading, Writing, Math)
- Increases special educator's ability to communicate effectively about what is happening in classes in the areas of disability because they will be in the classes on a daily basis