

MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Robert Dehnert
Director of Special Services

DATE : April 18, 2022

RE: Request for Additional Resource Room Staffing at McKinley

Please consider approving the increase of McKinley self-contained resource room staffing from three self-contained classrooms to four self-contained classrooms.

Currently, McKinley has three self-contained resource rooms. Minnesota State Statute currently limits the number of early childhood special education students to twelve in a self-contained classroom with two aids. McKinley's capacity for students with significant needs is 36 students. Currently, McKinley has 32 students in these classrooms. To start next school year, McKinley anticipates an additional 8 students bringing the total number of students to 40 at the start of the school year (or four students over our limit).

McKinley would like to add 1.0 FTE teacher and 2.0 FTE paraprofessionals to staff an additional self-contained classroom. The classroom would allow them to program for the 8 new students while allowing for additional growth throughout the school year. Based on current cost, this increase would total approximately \$75,000 for 1.0 FTE per school year and approximately \$75,000 for 2.0 FTE paraprofessionals. Of that cost, approximately 52% or \$78,000 would be reimbursed through the special education funding formula leaving an increase of \$72,000 to the special education budget. Of the \$72,000, a majority of it would be covered with the increase in ADM from the 8 new students.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks!

Rob Dehnert