

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2022

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: TIM LUTZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL IDEA FULL
 FUNDING ACT**

ACTION:

_____ offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

WHEREAS, the Bemidji School District recognizes the need for a strong investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was first enacted in 1975 to help ensure that all students with disabilities will have access to a free appropriate public education and IDEA's enactment more than 45 years ago, the current federal investment in IDEA is less than 14 percent; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of IDEA, the United States Congress committed to fund up to 40 percent of the additional cost of special education, thereby promising to provide up to 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure, which is currently estimated at \$13,828 by the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, our nation's school districts face an increased demand for greater resources to fulfill the needs of students under IDEA, including those for students affected by multiple disabilities whose individual education plans require more resources; and

WHEREAS, with each increase in the IDEA child count, the Bemidji School Board and others throughout the country continue to adjust their budgets to accommodate this increased need and ensure that each child educated through IDEA receives the appropriate supports, with some school districts dedicating forty percent or more of their general education budgets to special education services; and,

WHEREAS, Bemidji School District has a \$4,682,463.00 cross-subsidy for FY 20. Which is a one part of the statewide cross-subsidy that was more than \$673 million in FY 20, and is expected to grow to \$806 million in FY 25.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bemidji School Board supports the IDEA Full Funding Act that will help strengthen the federal investment in special education by authorizing a ten-year plan to fully fund the federal share of IDEA; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bemidji School Board urges Congress' strong bipartisan support for and passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bemidji School Board remains committed to providing students with disabilities and their families the supports they need.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by _____, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.