



Duluth School Board proposes:

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Submitted by members: Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, Jill Lofald

Legislative Resolution: Increasing Funding for Special Education in Minnesota

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is committed to providing a high-quality education to all its students, including those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has consistently failed to deliver full special education funding to our schools; and

WHEREAS, special education services are essential to ensuring that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that increased funding for special education is correlated with improved student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education has identified a significant funding gap for special education services; and

WHEREAS, this funding gap has led to increased burdens on school districts and families, and may negatively impact the quality of education provided to students with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the (Duluth Public Schools or MSBA), that the Minnesota State Legislature:

1. Directs the Minnesota Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive study to assess the current state of special education funding in Minnesota, including identifying any funding gaps and determining the necessary resources to address these gaps.
2. Supports the allocation of additional funds to support special education services in the upcoming 2025/2026 biennium, with the goal of ensuring that all students with disabilities have access to the resources and supports they need to succeed.
3. Directs the Minnesota Department of Education to develop and implement strategies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of special education services, including exploring innovative approaches to service delivery and utilizing technology to enhance student outcomes.
4. Commits to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of special education funding and service delivery to ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are being met.