

RESOLUTION NO. 30/18-19
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL
AB 428 FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, special education is a federal and state mandated education program that entitles children with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education; and

WHEREAS, California provides educational services to more than 700,000 children with identified disabilities; and

WHEREAS, California's neutral funding formula (Assembly Bill [AB] 602) does not adequately or equitably provide the necessary funding to pay for the increasing costs of providing educational services to students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, special education AB 602 funding rates among Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) vary considerably without justification; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Analyst's Office has consistently recommended that the Legislature equalize special education AB 602 funding rates; and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in the population of preschool-age children with autism, many of whom require intensive services; and

WHEREAS, California does not fund average daily attendance (ADA) or special education services for preschool-aged children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, preschool-age children with disabilities who receive high-quality care and education before kindergarten are 40% to 60% less likely to need special education interventions when they reach school age; and

WHEREAS, funding preschool programs for children with disabilities provides educational and social benefits that results in significant future cost savings to state and local educational agencies (LEAs); and

WHEREAS, in March 2015, the California Statewide Special Education Task Force issued a report recommending the state establish a new preschool funding mechanism and equalize AB 602 base funding rates; and

WHEREAS, the current amount of funding for students with significant disabilities, such as autism, blindness, deafness or severe orthopedic impairments, is far below amounts necessary to support their education; and

WHEREAS, the cost of materials, equipment, technology, and/or specialized services necessary for these students far exceed the per-ADA amount provided, with the average costs estimated at \$17,600 and can be as high as \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2019-20 State Budget proposal attempts to address the needs for students with disabilities for a small subset of LEAs, but does not propose any additional funding for these critical special education funding issues statewide; and

WHEREAS, AB 428 (Medina, D-Riverside) would increase and equalize AB 602 base funding rates, establish a funding mechanism for preschool programs for children with disabilities, provide additional funding for students with the most intensive needs, and address declining enrollment SELPA; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo-Foster City School District supports increased funding for special education equalization, the creation of a preschool funding mechanism for children with disabilities, and additional resources for students with high-cost disabilities as proposed in AB 428 (Medina); and

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the Governing Board of the San Mateo-Foster City School District urges Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature to support and fund AB 428 (Medina).

ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo-Foster City School District on the 7th day of March, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES

NOES

ABSENT

ATTEST:

Secretary of Said Board