



Columbus School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus School District State Revenue Resolutions

[COLUMBUS, WI- March 2023] Attached are two important resolutions recently adopted by the Columbus Board of Education regarding state revenue support levels that impact our local school district funding. These adopted resolutions represent the official position of the Columbus Board of Education.

Resolution # 1

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education has the responsibility to ensure the Columbus School District receives the financial resources necessary to empower each of our students to be community, career and college ready; and

WHEREAS, both main sources of funding for that purpose, state general aids and local property taxes, are restricted by state imposed limits first introduced in the 1993-94 school year; and

WHEREAS, those revenue limits were consistently and predictably adjusted for inflation and coupled with other increases to general aids which allowed districts to keep pace with increasing costs; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, revenue limits have not been consistently adjusted to match inflationary cost increases and the financial resources available for school districts have not kept pace with the rapidly rising costs of operating a school district in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the expenditures necessary to ensure administration and staff can effectively serve each of our students in the district increase each year, particularly as academic recovery efforts continue from the pandemic, staff retention is a crucial focus and the support provided for the changing social, emotional and behavioral needs of our students require additional resources to be successful.

THEREFORE, the Columbus Board of Education calls on Governor Evers, the Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly, to provide predictable, annual increases in state general equalization aids and per-pupil adjustments to revenue limits that at least match inflationary increases in school costs

Resolution # 2

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes that it has the responsibility under the the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that the Columbus School District has adequate financial resources to provide Special Education services for all students who may need them while enrolled in our district; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes the significant expenditures that are dedicated to Special Education services in the district each fiscal year and the positive impact of Special Education services in the lives of students who access them in our district; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Education recognizes those expenditures increase each year with rising costs and those expenditures which are not reimbursed by the state will have to be diverted from general funds that broadly support the education of all students in our district; and

WHEREAS, the low categorical aid reimbursement rate for Special Education services on prior year services from the State of Wisconsin which is provided to school districts has been in decline for decades and, despite a recent nominal increase, Columbus and districts around the state must provide a larger portion of the costs for Special Education services each year from general funds to help students to do their best academically in Columbus or statewide.

THEREFORE, the Columbus Board of Education calls on Governor Evers, The Wisconsin State Assembly and The Wisconsin State Senate to immediately increase the special education categorical aid to 60% with a goal to eventually reimburse 90% of prior year eligible costs for districts in Wisconsin.
