



School Board of South Milwaukee

Resolution 18-6 Eliminate Private Special Needs Scholarships

Whereas, the South Milwaukee School Board, administrators, educators, staff, parents and community members of South Milwaukee are united in our effort to provide all children with the highest quality educational opportunities possible; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has not increased funding in public school special education categorical aid for a decade but has increased it for private schools using the special needs scholarship; and

Whereas, Wisconsin now has special needs scholarships (vouchers) which benefit students in private schools; and

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin has granted private school special education pupils to receive a voucher of \$12,431 plus 50% from the resident public school district for 2019-20 for any Special Needs Scholarship pupils; and

Whereas, the Private Special Needs Scholarship reimburses 90% of the cost of services beyond the \$12,431 plus 50% of the base voucher amount; and

Whereas, public schools have been limited in special education categorical reimbursement to less than 26%; and

Whereas, the Private Special Needs Scholarship covers services that are not evidence based and would be prohibited from reimbursement in a public school setting; and

Whereas, by the Private Special Needs Scholarship covering services that are prohibited from reimbursement in a public school setting would provide private students with a wider range of opportunities than their public peers; and

Whereas, Wisconsin public schools are required by law to continue serving all special education students in private schools, whether or not they receive a voucher, putting public schools out more money to pay for public school special education educators i.e. teachers, physical/occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists; and

Whereas, private voucher schools, despite getting increased funding for special needs students, are not required to have certified/licensed special education staff ; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the South Milwaukee Board of Education calls on Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin State Assembly, and the Wisconsin Senate to support eliminating the Private Special Needs Scholarship.

In Witness whereof, the undersigned, being all of the members of the School Board for the South Milwaukee School District, have executed this resolution this 5th day of September, 2018.

Board President, Carol Dufek

Board Vice President, Therese Travia

Board Clerk, Douglas Perry

Board Treasurer, John Haslam

Board Member, David Maast

Board Member, Jon Shelenske