

**RESOLUTION 2016-17 # 39**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPPORT OF AB 312 - 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 713,000 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) 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 Governor's 2017-18 Budget proposal does not propose any additional funding to address these critical special education funding issues; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 312 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach) would equalize AB 602 base funding rates and establish a funding mechanism for preschool programs for children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) suggests rolling \$3 billion of special education funding into each LEA's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and is critical of the current SELPA governance structure

**WHEREAS**, our LEA opposes the PPIC recommendations to roll \$3 billion of special education funding into LCFF and supports maintaining the critical support provided by our SELPA to ensure all children receive the services to which they are entitled to under state and federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saugus Union School District supports increased funding for special education equalization and supports the creation of a preschool funding mechanism for children with disabilities as proposed in AB 312 (O'Donnell); and

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Governing Board of the Saugus Union School District urges Governor Jerry Brown and the California State Legislature to support and fund AB 312 (O'Donnell) and to reject the PPIC recommendations that would be harmful to our students with disabilities.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was adopted at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Saugus Union School District held this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Powell, Ph.D., President  
Governing Board

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Julie Olsen, Member  
Governing Board

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Christopher M. Trunkey, Clerk  
Governing Board

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Judy Egan Umeck, Member  
Governing Board

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Paul De La Cerda, Member  
Governing Board

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joan M. Lucid, Ed.D.  
Secretary to the Board