

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Alameda, California**  
**Resolution**

March 12, 2019

Resolution No. 2018-2019.34

**IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING 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 result 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 that 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 SELPAs; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alameda Unified 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);

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Alameda Board of Education and the Alameda Unified School District urge Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature to support and fund AB 428 (Medina).

*PASSED AND ADOPTED* by the following vote this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mialisa Bonta, President  
Board of Education  
Alameda Unified School District  
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Sean McPhetridge, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Alameda Unified School District  
Alameda County, State of California