



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 21 – 24, 2019

### Resolution on Federal Funding of Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

- WHEREAS,** the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that all children with disabilities be provided a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 7 million U.S. children between the ages of 3 and 21 receive special-education services under IDEA; and
- WHEREAS,** a significant percentage of public school students in each of the 11 states of the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) receive services under IDEA — for the 2017-18 school year, 14.6 percent in Illinois, 16.8 percent in Indiana, 12.9 percent in Iowa, 14.9 percent in Kansas, 13.1 percent in Michigan, 15.1 percent in Minnesota, 15.6 percent in Nebraska, 13.9 percent in North Dakota, 15.7 percent in Ohio, 15.4 percent in South Dakota, and 14.0 percent in Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** IDEA calls for states to receive federal grants equal up to 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for educating students with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** for decades, funding from the U.S. Congress has fallen well below that 40 percent figure; and
- WHEREAS,** the share of federal funding for special education and related services fell to 14 percent in fiscal year 2019 (it was 18 percent in 2006, 16 percent in 2010 and 15 percent in 2017); and
- WHEREAS,** continued underfunding has contributed to poor outcomes for some students while leaving states and local school districts with the increased burden of finding the fiscal resources needed to meet their obligations under IDEA; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC urges members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. executive branch to fully fund IDEA at 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for educating students with disabilities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal lawmakers and officials.

*Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019 at the 74<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois*