

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: Resolution

Date: March 14, 2023

Dept: SC

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

Franklin School Committee Resolution Special Education Circuit Breaker Funding

I recommend support of the resolution for Special Education Circuit Breaker funding as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
C. Bernstein:	Y / N D. McNeill: Y / N
D. Callaghan:	Y / N M. Whitmore: Y / N
Al Charles:	Y / N D Spencer: Y / N
E Stokes:	Y / N Action: _____

**FRANKLIN SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:
SPECIAL EDUCATION CIRCUIT BREAKER FUNDING**

TO: Governor Maura Healey
Senate President Karen Spilka
House Speaker Ronald Mariano
Joint Education Committee Chair Jason Lewis
Joint Education Committee Chair Denise Garlick
Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler
Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley

CC: Senator Rebecca Rausch
Representative Jeffrey Roy

WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD) has increased the tuition by 14% for next year's private out-of-district special education schools, which means Franklin will pay approximately **\$775,000** more in placements in special education schools based solely on this increase; and

WHEREAS, the MASC Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the pursuit of major changes to the Circuit Breaker reimbursement for extraordinary special education expenses. MASC is advocating for a reimbursement rate of 90% of all special education related expenses beyond three times the average state per pupil foundation rate. The current formula is a maximum of 75% of special education related expenses beyond four times the average; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Franklin School Committee supports increasing the special education circuit breaker reimbursement from 75% to 90% of three times the average state per pupil foundation rate. Current legislation in process does not address the multiplying factor of the average state per pupil foundation rate.

Respectfully:

Franklin School Committee, Denise Spencer, Chair
Passed:

Resources

House Bill: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD1783> to increase reimbursement from 75% to 90%.

Senate Bill: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3156> to increase reimbursement from 75% to 90% which is co-sponsored by Holliston State Representative James Arena-DeRosa.

This resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0.