Legislative Learning & Advocacy Town Hall

Special Programs
Title III (English Language Learners)
IDEA (Special Education)

February 15, 2021
Welcome & Introductions

Lori Lyon  
WCSD Board President

Brad Buck  
WCSD Superintendent

Sarah Kautz  
WCSD Chief Financial Officer

Peg Erke  
Director of Student Services

Stacie DeHaan  
Director of Instructional Services

Margaret Buckton  
Executive Director, UEN
Professional Advocate, RSAI
Partner, ISFIS

WCSD Parent Advocates
Amanda Acton
Sheri Martinez
Becky Fitzgerald
Lesley Christensen

Legislators
Jake Chapman
Sarah Trone Garriott
Kenan Judge
Carter Nordman
Waukee CSD Legislative Priorities

- Mental Health
- SSA (Supplemental State Aid)
- Drop Out/At Risk Funding
- Special Education State Aid
- Governance - Local Accountability and Decision Making
- Public Dollars for Public Education
Town Hall Agenda

- Special Education
- English Language Learners
- How Can You Help
- Questions
Special Education
IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

- The beginning - 1975
  - Education for All Handicapped Act (P.L. 94-142)
    - Part A: findings, purpose, definitions, administrative items
    - Part B: ages 3 to 21, Public School Responsibility
      - The “how to” outlines the responsibilities of federal, state, and local districts, procedural safeguards, data collection, funding piece for schools
    - Part C: birth to age 3
      - National activities, supports, research

- Currently - ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)
  - Signed in to federal law in 2015
    - Special Education is embedded, as well as other specialized programs
    - Emphasis on providing quality education and resources to children and families regardless of race, income, disability, home language, or background
Programming & Learning Supports: PK-12+

- Waukee Special Education Service Delivery Plan
  - PK: 74 students with IEPs
  - K-12+: 970+ students with IEPs
  - Approximately 10% of students in the district have IEPs
    - Slightly lower than state average
    - Includes students with speech-only IEPs
  - PK-12 Special Education Teachers: 117
    - Service Delivery Model outlines # of students on a teacher’s roster based on individual student needs
  - PK-12 Associates: 200+ (supporting multiple students across PK-12 buildings)

- Programming Models in Waukee
  - Level 1, 2, 3 - based on # of goals & supports students need
  - Students receive various services along the continuum based on IEP needs
Special Education Iowa Enrollments
Special Education Iowa Enrollments

Iowa Special Education Percent of Certified Enrollment

- 1997-98: 9.7%
- 2000-01: 13.4%
- 2001-02: 12.9%
- 2002-03: 12.9%
- 2003-04: 12.7%
- 2004-05: 12.7%
- 2005-06: 12.9%
- 2006-07: 12.9%
- 2007-08: 12.9%
- 2008-09: 12.9%
- 2009-10: 12.9%
- 2010-11: 12.7%
- 2011-12: 12.5%
- 2012-13: 12.2%
- 2013-14: 12.2%
- 2014-15: 11.5%
- 2015-16: 12.2%
- 2016-17: 12.2%
- 2017-18: 12.2%
- 2018-19: 12.9%
- 2019-20: 12.9%
- 2020-21: 12.9%
Special Education Iowa Enrollments
### Special Education


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<td>Orthopedic impairment</td>
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<td>Other health impairment⁵</td>
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<td>Preschool disabled⁶</td>
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<td>Specific learning disabilities</td>
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<td>5.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<td>Speech or language impairment</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<td>Traumatic brain injury</td>
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<td>Visual impairment</td>
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Change over time in what disabilities are identified: Autism and Developmental Delay explain the increase nationally from 1990 to 2018.
Weightings in Iowa’s Formula

- Each student that is identified as Special Ed eligible receives one of three weightings based on the services in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP):
  - Level I 0.72, Level II 1.21, Level III 2.74
  - This is in addition to the 1.0 weighting
  - The weighting is multiplied by the District Cost per Pupil
  - So for example let’s take a Level III student:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Ed</th>
<th>Special Ed</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>District Cost per Pupil</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>$7,048</td>
<td>$26,359</td>
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</table>
Weightings

- These weightings are set by the SBRC based on experience of school districts statewide.
- Since they are averages, local costs to deliver special education services are expected to vary.
- Special education services are labor intensive, i.e., staff cost. Actual expenditures by district vary based on experience and advanced degree status of the teacher or years of experience of a paraprofessional.
Expenditures

- Iowa is a “full funding” state
- Districts are obligated to provide any service mandated by a student’s IEP (Individualized Educational Plan)
- The IEP is created by AEA/District and Parents
- Allowable expenditures driven by the IEP:
  - Direct cost of providing special education instruction
  - Including specialized Physical Education; training, travel or accommodations to extra curricular activities
  - Special accommodations to fulfill the IEP
  - Licensed staff (including para’s providing direct support to eligible students)
  - Health services included in IEP
  - Specialized supplies and equipment
  - Transportation costs (if required in IEP)
  - Special vehicle costs (only if used by Special Education)
  - Staff development and travel for special education staff (or general staff if the topic is special education)
  - Open enrollment out costs (district of residence pays for special education)
Big Question

- If Iowa is a full funding state, what happens if the weightings don’t generate enough money to pay for the services?
- Remember, state cost per pupil set by the Legislature is multiplied by the Special Education Weightings to create the special education budget.
- If there is a surplus, the district will keep 10% for next year’s special education.
- If there’s a deficit, the local school board requests spending authority from the SBRC for property tax authority to pay back the district for the shortfall that what was spent on special education.
Why the Deficit Plummet?

Special Education needs have grown. State Cost per Pupil hasn’t kept pace.

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<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>33,235</td>
<td>33,254</td>
<td>33,662</td>
<td>34,100</td>
<td>35,147</td>
<td>35,943</td>
<td>2,708</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>14,559</td>
<td>14,119</td>
<td>14,414</td>
<td>14,596</td>
<td>15,385</td>
<td>15,325</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>7,278</td>
<td>7,876</td>
<td>8,737</td>
<td>8,941</td>
<td>8,903</td>
<td>8,514</td>
<td>1,236</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total SE Students</td>
<td>55,072</td>
<td>55,249</td>
<td>56,813</td>
<td>57,637</td>
<td>59,435</td>
<td>59,782</td>
<td>4,710</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Enrollment</td>
<td>480,772</td>
<td>483,451</td>
<td>485,147</td>
<td>486,264</td>
<td>487,652</td>
<td>490,094</td>
<td>9,323</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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Iowa State Cost Per Pupil Funding History

- Set by formula based on economic conditions automatically from the beginning of the formula through 1993-94.
- Legislatively set one year in advance of the budget year beginning in 1994-95.
- Beginning in FY18, set within 30 days of Gov.'s Budget, no longer a year in advance.

Historical annual cost increase of doing school is 3.0-4.0% (orange band below): SSA set in 10 of the last 11 years lags the cost increase schools have faced.
Waukee and Ankeny
Waukee Special Education Data - Counts

- **Level 1**:
  - 2018: 516
  - 2019: 526
  - 2020: 563

- **Level 2**:
  - 2018: 279
  - 2019: 270
  - 2020: 336

- **Level 3**:
  - 2018: 120
  - 2019: 112
  - 2020: 138

- **Total**:
  - 2018: 915
  - 2019: 908
  - 2020: 1,037
Waukee CSD Deficit - History

Waukee CSD Special Education Deficit History

2016: $(3,321,450)
2017: $(4,421,860)
2018: $(5,351,687)
2019: $(6,516,126)
2020: $(8,168,152)
English as a Second Language
Title III (English Learners)

- English for Speakers of Other Languages
  - A program to teach ELs English language skills, which include **listening**, **speaking**, **reading**, and **writing**.

- Federal Law
  - Dear Colleague Letter (Jan 7, 2015)
  - 2015 - Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and Department of Justice (DOJ) co-issued letter that emphasized “Equal access to instructional programs” for ELs and their parents

- Currently: ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)
  - Revised K-12 District Lau Plan
  - Required Screener and Summative Assessment
    - ELPA21 Dynamic Screener and ELPA21 Summative
  - EL Teachers required to monitor data for 2 years after passing ELPA21
    - No additional funding for these students - “Exited” the program
EL Program - Funding

- Federal Funding: Title III - Iowa
  - Funds to state and AEA’s - not directly to districts

- Districts can apply for $5,000 grants
  - Supplemental materials
  - Family involvement
  - Professional development

- Weighted funding formula for each EL student
  - identified students

- Immigrant Grant Funding (CASA allocation)
Waukee CSD English Learner Data

- Programming Models in Waukee
  - Students receive various services along the continuum based on student need, such as pull-out instruction, co-taught class, co-support.

- Grades K-12
  - 518 students in an ESOL Program
  - 153 immigrant students (first 3 years in the country)
  - 371 year 1 & year 2 monitored students
  - 48 waived services students
  - 19 K-12 ESOL teachers
  - 9 associates

- We “exit” around 150-200 students each year
  - Monitor student test scores for 2 years
Waukee CSD English Language - Program Deficit History

Waukee CSD EL Deficit History

- 2018: $(455,500)
- 2019: $(498,616)
- 2020: $(577,857)
ELL: Works the Same Way

- Waukee ELL is 4.7% of enrollment
- In lower half of peer group on ELL Percent of total enrollment
ELL Funding

- Weighting: 0.22 (National average weighting is 0.39)
- $7,048 \times 0.22 = $1,551 for up to 5 years
- Allowable Expenditures: ELL teachers, staff, paraeducators, classroom interpreters, curriculum, software, translated materials, support services to students, targeted professional development, curriculum development or academic student assessment for ELL teachers, support services to parents and community services specific to limited English proficiency.
- Ask SBRC for spending authority for expenses exceeding the weighting or the time.
- Statewide $17.6 million for FY 2020 claimed by 127 districts.
- Waukee ranks 79. Average is $3,803 per ELL pupil. (Waukee is below that at $3,293.)
- Average deficit per ELL student is 245% above the weighting.
Solutions

- **Increase the weightings?**
  - Special Education - some districts still have surplus
  - All property tax relief, not more funding for students
  - Adjustments between the levels might be appropriate
  - ELL – definite relationship between low property values and ELL concentration. Higher property tax levy in places that struggle with higher property tax rates.

- **Increase the state cost per pupil?**
  - Lowers the property tax share of special education deficits
  - Lowers the property tax share of ELL excess costs
  - Lowers the property tax share of budget guarantee
  - Increase resources available for all students (regular program, dropout prevention, instructional support, special education and English-Language Learners)
What Can You Do?
Local Legislators

Chance to hear from our local legislators

- Senator Jake Chapman: Senate District 10
  - Jake.Chapman@legis.iowa.gov

- Senator Sarah Trone Garriott: Senate District 22
  - Sarah.Trone.garriott@legis.iowa.gov

- Representative Kenan Judge: House District 44
  - Kenan.Judge@legis.iowa.gov

- Representative Carter Nordman: House District 19
  - Carter.Nordman@legis.iowa.gov
Advocacy - How can you help?

Contact your legislators and share your story
Email, mail, phone call

Find your legislator link-
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators
Contact Information

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Questions?