



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1

**Meeting Date:** December 16, 2021

**Subject:** Resolution No. 3244: Recognition of National Special Education Day, December 2, 2021

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Division:** Academic Office

**Recommendation:** Approve Resolution No. 3244: Recognition of National Special Education Day, December 2, 2021

**Background/Rationale:** On December 2nd, National Special Education Day recognizes changes in federal legislation that led to the nation's first federal special education law.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> commemorates the anniversary of our nation's first federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, signed by President Ford on December 2, 1975.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) made public education available to all eligible children with disabilities across the nation. This law was a critical step on towards making education and resources equitable for all children. As our District continues to push for greater equity, we honor this milestone and utilize it as a reminder of the continued advocacy and work that is needed at a local, state, and federal level to ensure that our students with disabilities are ensured the equitable access and opportunity they deserve.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Resolution No. 3244

<p><b>Estimated Time of Presentation:</b> 5 minutes <b>Submitted by:</b> Geovanni Linares, Director SELPA <b>Approved by:</b> Christine Baeta, Chief Academic Officer</p>
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**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3244**

**Recognition of National Special Education Day, December 2, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, December 2nd is recognized as National Special Education Day. This day celebrates the anniversary of the nation's first special education law as the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was signed in 1975.

**WHEREAS**, the IDEA law makes a free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and other related services be made available to the students; and

**WHEREAS**, IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early interventions, special education, and related services to infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019–20, the number of students ages 3–21 who received special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was 7.3 million, or 14 percent of all public school students; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018-19 California Department of Education data states that special education services were provided to 795,047 individuals, newborn through twenty-two years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, California, at no cost to parents, provides specially designed instruction to meet the needs and settings that allow infants and their families, preschoolers, students, and young adults to be educated with their peers as much as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, For the 2021-22 school year the Sacramento City Unified School District proudly serves over 7,000 students receiving special education services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento City Unified School District's Special Education Department partners with the Sacramento County Office of Education to serve students with disabilities from birth to age 22; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento City Unified School District's Special Education Department also provides services to special education students attending Non-Public Schools, Residential Treatment Centers, and Hospital settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the chronic underfunding of the federal law now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 (IDEA) by the federal government places an additional funding burden on states, local school districts, and taxpayers to pay for needed services, and often means using local budget dollars to cover the federal shortfall, ultimately shortchanging other school programs that students with disabilities often also benefit from; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, local funding has been covering an increasing share of special education expenditures, 61 percent in 2017-18 as compared

to 49 percent in 2007-08, with an estimated two-thirds of the cost increases due to a rise in the incidence of students with moderate to severe disabilities (November 2019); and

**WHEREAS**, the inadequate level of funding for special education at both the federal and state level does not differentiate funding based on the severity of the student’s disability and therefore fails to recognize the additional resources required to adequately meet the needs of students with moderate to severe disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the current state funding structure for special education is based on student attendance (AB 602) providing Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs) funding based on their overall student attendance, regardless of how many students with disabilities the SELPA serves or the services they provide; and

**WHEREAS**, The District is proudly committed to improving student equity and access to high quality education through a robust instructional program that meets each individual student’s unique needs and prepares them and their families for their transition beyond secondary school; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Board of the Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes and celebrates the unique assets and needs of our students with disabilities and is proud to serve them and their families in light of the shameful historic exclusion of students with disabilities;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the District formally recognize December 2nd as Annual Special Education Day and encourages all schools, students, and families to celebrate our children with disabilities and the unique assets they contribute to our school communities;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board commits to continued advocacy for additional resources that will adequately resource and sustain the instructional programs and services for our students with disabilities, such as increasing California’s funding allocations to meet the increases in special education costs, particularly for students with moderate to severe disabilities, Congress significantly increasing the annual appropriation for IDEA, passing the IDEA Full Funding Act (S. 3213/H.R. 5984), as well as the Keep Our Pact Act (S. 72/H.R. 764), and creating a mandatory 10-year path to fully fund both IDEA and Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Special Education Department is directed to develop more regular opportunities for parents and families of students with disabilities to engage with the District to provide meaningful feedback, opportunities for continuous improvement and strengthen partnerships and resources.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 16 day of December 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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Christina Pritchett  
President of the Board of Education

ATTESTED TO:

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Jorge A. Aguilar  
Secretary of the Board of Education