

OPPOSE

Elimination of State Reimbursement for Residential Placements for Students with Disabilities

The Council of School Superintendents opposes making permanent the elimination of state reimbursement for residential placements made by a school district committee on special education. Last year, the enacted budget eliminated the 18.424% state share of these costs, but this provision was set to sunset at the end of this fiscal year

The Executive Budget would make this state funding cut permanent and cost school districts an estimated \$28 million next school year. Schools already struggle with significant special education costs with overburdensome mandates that do not necessarily guarantee better outcomes for students.

This cost shift places an increased financial burden on local school districts. It could also adversely affect some of our most vulnerable students and the special act school districts and other programs that serve them. The increased financial burden on districts threatens to close the door of access for students who suffer complex trauma due to abuse and who are affected by serious mental health conditions. Without access to the therapeutic services and the 24/7 stable environment provided by a residential placement, these youth may remain in cycles of crisis.

***The Council opposes permanently eliminating the state share
for residential special education placement costs***