

MCASE Advocacy Ideas 1-17-17

What could we fall back to if there ends up being no funding for Special Ed in this session?

Use the MCASE Advocacy Talking Points when meeting with legislators.

Establish Priorities:

1. Permanent funding bills support. HB 253 (inflation) and LC 0165 (sp ed coop funding).
2. HB 32 (inflation and sp ed coop funding) to be taken off the table and usher through to law.
3. Could we at least stay where we are at, which was one-time-only funding for special ed inflation in the 2017 biennium (approved by the 2015 legislature). Therefore, we would need for HB 31 to pass to not lose ground and have to make cuts. Or said another way, would need to take from school district's general funds in order to meet mandated services for students with disabilities because there is no budget increase allocation for special ed. Or, find another bill to accomplish this.

How to address carryover and the SB 191 (2015) that lead legislators to believe there is access to all the funding needed?

- Use of the tuition fund will not solve all of the problems because you first subtract out the state aid and all other funds and only pay what the cost coverage is.
- Complicated to explain carryover and have people understand.

Strategies for Advocating

1. Target key legislators to change their vote. Get R's who voted no on HB 31, 32, 33 in House Education Committee to flip vote. Possible vote changes: Fred Anderson, Sue Vinton, Seth Berglee.
2. Get Board Chair's to make contact with legislators.
3. Superintendents identified special ed funding as important in the SAM Needs Assessment, so request superintendents to support this and have them make contacts.
4. MCASE regional directors coordinate the contacts to legislators that they believe can sway.
5. Questions and ideas to be sent to Verne Beffert and Chris Rice.

Click [2017 Legislators Info by School System 12-28-16](#) to see the legislators' contact information representing the schools that you are associated with.