
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 49 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY RYAN, HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, BOBACK, STAATS,
KAUFFMAN, STRUZZI, COX, MOUL, GLEIM AND KEEFER,
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to provide funding for
2 Federal mandates with respect to special education in the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Unfunded Federal mandates in the area of education
5 have saddled schools, local communities and taxpayers with
6 burdens of unparalleled proportions; and

7 WHEREAS, Schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rely on
8 State taxes and property taxes to fund these unfunded Federal
9 education mandates, otherwise known as cost drivers, as well as
10 locally desired programs; and

11 WHEREAS, One of the principal cost drivers for schools in the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the unfunded Federal mandate
13 associated with educating children with disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The Federal Government's prescription for helping
15 children with disabilities without corresponding funding raises
16 the risk of those children not receiving the special education
17 they need; and

18 WHEREAS, Unfunded Federal special education mandates put the

1 parents of children with disabilities in the unfortunate
2 position of searching for school districts that have programs
3 that meet the diverse needs of their children; and

4 WHEREAS, Unfunded Federal special education mandates
5 significantly impact the ability of school districts in the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to formulate a budget due to the
7 unknown costs associated with a varying degree of special
8 education needs; and

9 WHEREAS, Unfunded Federal special education mandates are
10 responsible for an average of 12% to 17% of a school district's
11 budget in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania being allocated to
12 help children with disabilities with limited funding assistance
13 from the Federal Government; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result, school districts in the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania are forced to increase property taxes; and

16 WHEREAS, Federal funding for special education mandates in
17 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ensures that Commonwealth
18 residents will not be the sole source of funding for these
19 mandates; and

20 WHEREAS, Parents of children with disabilities should not
21 have to move to a different school district in order for their
22 children to receive a quality education as a result of unfunded
23 Federal special education mandates; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
26 States to provide funding for Federal mandates with respect to
27 special education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each

1 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.