FOREST HILLS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution of the Forest Hills School District School Board, Hamilton, Ohio met in a regular session on November 18, 2026 at Mercer Elementary School, 2600 Bartels Road, Cincinnati, OH 45244 with the following members present:

- Dr. Wendy Strickler, President
- Dr. Jason Simmons, Vice President
- Mr. Jeff Nye, Member
- Mrs. Erin Walczewski, Member
- MR. Jeremy Ward, Member

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO
FUND 40 PERCENT OF IDEA COSTS

WHEREAS, a resolution of the Forest Hills School District School Board Urging the United States Congress to Fulfill Its Longstanding Commitment to Fund 40 Percent of Special Education Costs Under the Individuals withDisabilities Education Act (IDEA)

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 to ensure that students with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, Congress made a clear commitment in IDEA to fund 40 percent of the cost to educate students to help cover the excess costs of providing special education services; and

WHEREAS, despite this longstanding promise, federal IDEA funding has consistently fallen far short in 2027 providingjust 10 percent of the cost—leaving state, local school districts, and taxpayers to subsidize the federal government's unmet obligation; and

WHEREAS students covered by IDEA have grown exponentially from 3.7 million in 1975 to 8.3 million students today; and

WHEREAS, Ohio school districts collectively face a statewide special education shortfall Exceeding **$750** million annually, requiring local districts to redirect general education revenues to meet mandated special education needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding shortfall places significant and increasing pressure on local budgets, widens funding imbalances among school districts, undermines general education programs, and forces reductions in staffing, class size initiatives, mental health supports, and other essential student services; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the federal promise of 40 percent IDEA funding would provide substantial

relief to Ohio school districts, reduce reliance on local levies, stabilize district budgets, and strengthen educational outcomes for all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Forest Hills School District hereby urges theUnited States Congress to:
1. Fulfill its statutory commitment to fund 40 percent of IDEA special education costs through a multi-year glide path;
2. Support annual increases in IDEA appropriations that meaningfully reduce the federal funding shortfall;
3. Ensure IDEA funding remains stable and protected from across-the-board cuts.
4. Publicly reaffirm the federal government's responsibility to fully fund (40%) mandated special education services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Superintendent are directed to share this resolution with:
• Members of Ohio congressional delegation;
• Ohio School Board Association;
• Ohio Department of Education
• Workforce; and
• Local legislators.

ADOPTED by the School Board of Forest Hills School District on this 18th day of November, 2026.

_____ seconded the motion and the roll being called upon the question of the adoption of the Resolution, the vote resulted as follows:

Ayes:_____

Nays:_____

Adopted this 18th day of November, 2026.

Attest:_____
Wendy Strickler, Board President

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 18th day of November, 2026, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said resolution.

_____

Alana Cropper, Treasurer