

April 11, 2025

By Email

School District 73.5 Board of Education
Dr. Keely Roberts, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Kaine Osburn, Interim Superintendent

Re: Report by SD 73.5 Caregivers of Special Ed, 504, and Diverse Learners

Dear Members of the Board and Interim Superintendents:

We write as district parents and members of the Niles Township Caregivers of Special Ed, 504, and Diverse Learners. Members of our group spoke at a recent Board of Ed meeting regarding our and our children's problematic experiences over the past years with the administration of special ed and disability accommodations in this district. Some of us also have spoken with the interim superintendents, where we have been heard in a way that feels refreshing and new for this district. In addition to bringing our personal perspective as parents of diverse learners to these issues, we also bring our various professional backgrounds, which include specialties in teaching, special education, cultural and educational policy, social work, clinical behavioral therapy, disability rights law, international development, philanthropy, systems engineering, and management.

We now write to provide you with a report that our group began preparing after our founding in the Fall of 2024. The enclosed report provides further details regarding our experiences, and those of others in our community, as well as recommendations for district-wide reform in the administration of special ed and disability accommodations. The individuals providing the examples herein specifically approved of their inclusion in the report in this manner.

We thank you for reading, and we urge you to act.

Very truly yours,

Report Committee, D73.5 Caregivers of Special Ed,
504, and Diverse Learners

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