



# Town of Lexington

## Annual Town Meeting 2023

### **Article 23: Establish Special Education Reserve Fund**

#### **Presenter: Jill Hai**

The first part of this article seeks to establish a new Special Education Reserve Fund which is allowable under Chapter 40, Section 13E of the Massachusetts General Laws. This Special Education Fund will act as a reserve to cover unexpected or extraordinary costs in the School Department's special education, out-of-district tuition or transportation budgets during the fiscal year. The balance of the reserve fund can be accessed by a recommendation of the School Department and joint approval of the School Committee and Select Board, without further appropriation by Town Meeting. The new Special Education Reserve will supplement the existing Special Education Stabilization Fund and allow the School Department more flexibility when needs arise during the fiscal year.

The second part of this article requests an appropriation of \$750,000 into the new Special Education Reserve Fund from available Free Cash. This funding will remain in the Special Education Reserve until spent, and will carry over into future fiscal years if not utilized. It should be noted that appropriations into the Special Education Reserve fund are limited to 2% of the Town's annual Net School Spending as determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Select Board unanimously supports passage of Article 23.