

IDEA Funding Gap

Current Funding of IDEA

Since 2009, the average federal share per child has remained stagnant, as has the number of students served, while the national average per pupil expenditure (APPE) has risen about 1 percent per year. The result is a declining federal contribution to the costs of educating students with special needs.

Average Federal Share Per Child (current dollars)

\$1,741 | **\$1,742**
FY 2009* | FY 2015

Students Receiving Services (in thousands)

6,599 | **6,593**
FY 2009* | FY 2015

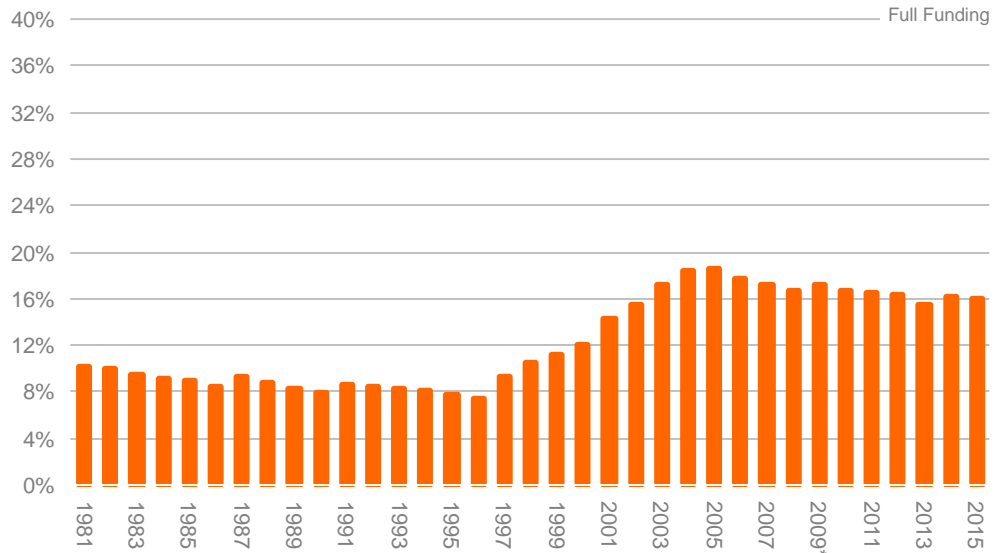
Average Federal Share Per Child, Percentage of APPE

17.2% | **16.0%**
FY 2009* | FY 2015

IDEA Full Funding

The assumption underlying the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its predecessor legislation is that, on average, the cost of educating children with disabilities is twice the average cost (measured as the national average per pupil expenditure or APPE) of educating other children. Congress determined that the federal government would pay up to 40 percent of this "excess" cost, which is referred to as full funding. Since 1981, the first year for which full funding was 40 percent of APPE, the federal share has remained less than half of the federal commitment based on regular appropriations.

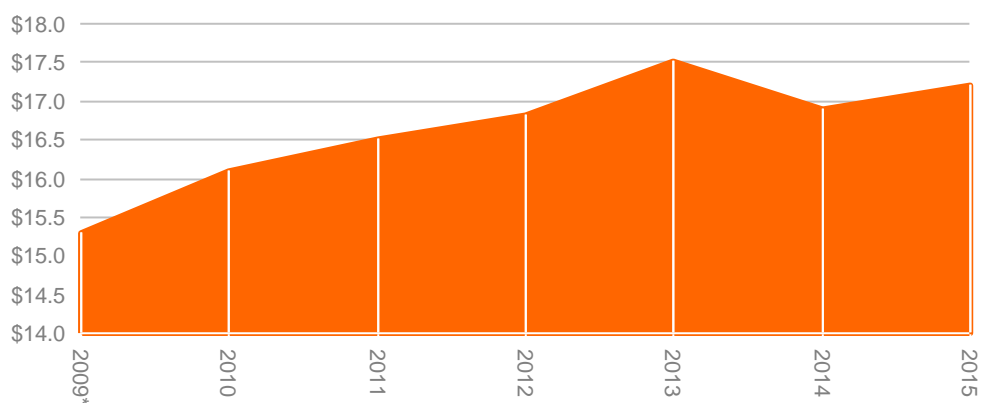
average federal cost share per special needs student



Federal Cost Shift to States and Districts

Each year the federal government fails to fully fund IDEA, it shifts the costs for educating students with special needs to states and school districts. Since 2009, the annual cost shift has averaged about \$16.6 billion.

Annual Costs Absorbed by States and Districts from Federal Underfunding of IDEA



* Excludes one-time funds provided under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Source: NEA calculations based on data from the U.S. Department of Education Budget Service and the Congressional Research Service. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. | February 2, 2015

Special Education Grants to States
(IDEA Part B-611)

IDEA Funding Gap

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in millions

State	FY 2015		
	Appropriation	Full Funding	Funding Gap and Cost Shift
Alabama	\$179.6	\$448.5	-\$268.9
Alaska	36.2	90.4	-54.2
Arizona	188.5	470.9	-282.4
Arkansas	110.6	276.2	-165.6
California	1,208.1	3,017.7	-1,809.6
Colorado	154.8	386.6	-231.9
Connecticut	131.5	328.5	-197.0
Delaware	35.1	87.6	-52.5
District of Columbia	17.6	44.0	-26.4
Florida	635.8	1,588.1	-952.3
Georgia	329.0	821.9	-492.8
Hawaii	39.3	98.2	-58.9
Idaho	55.5	138.5	-83.1
Illinois	500.2	1,249.5	-749.3
Indiana	255.7	638.8	-383.1
Iowa	120.8	301.7	-180.9
Kansas	105.5	263.5	-158.0
Kentucky	156.2	390.2	-234.0
Louisiana	186.4	465.5	-279.1
Maine	54.1	135.2	-81.1
Maryland	197.8	494.1	-296.3
Massachusetts	280.9	701.6	-420.7
Michigan	394.8	986.0	-591.3
Minnesota	187.6	468.5	-280.9
Mississippi	118.4	295.7	-177.3
Missouri	224.7	561.3	-336.6
Montana	37.0	92.3	-55.4
Nebraska	73.9	184.5	-110.7
Nevada	70.9	177.1	-106.2
New Hampshire	47.0	117.3	-70.3
New Jersey	357.7	893.4	-535.7
New Mexico	90.1	225.1	-135.0
New York	750.5	1,874.7	-1,124.2
North Carolina	327.7	818.5	-490.8
North Dakota	28.5	71.1	-42.6
Ohio	431.5	1,077.9	-646.3
Oklahoma	146.7	366.5	-219.8
Oregon	127.3	317.9	-190.6
Pennsylvania	421.2	1,052.1	-630.9
Rhode Island	43.3	108.1	-64.8
South Carolina	175.0	437.1	-262.1
South Dakota	33.9	84.7	-50.8
Tennessee	235.0	587.0	-352.0
Texas	984.8	2,459.9	-1,475.1
Utah	109.9	274.6	-164.7
Vermont	27.5	68.6	-41.1
Virginia	281.0	701.8	-420.9
Washington	218.1	544.8	-326.7
West Virginia	75.1	187.7	-112.6
Wisconsin	205.7	513.8	-308.1
Wyoming	28.8	71.9	-43.1
Puerto Rico	115.2	287.8	-172.6
Outlying Areas	40.8	102.0	-61.1
Bureau of Indian Education	94.0	234.8	-140.8
Technical Assistance	15.0	32.6	-17.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
National	\$11,497.8	\$28,714.6	-\$17,216.8

Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. | February 2, 2015

Education Policy & Practice Department
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