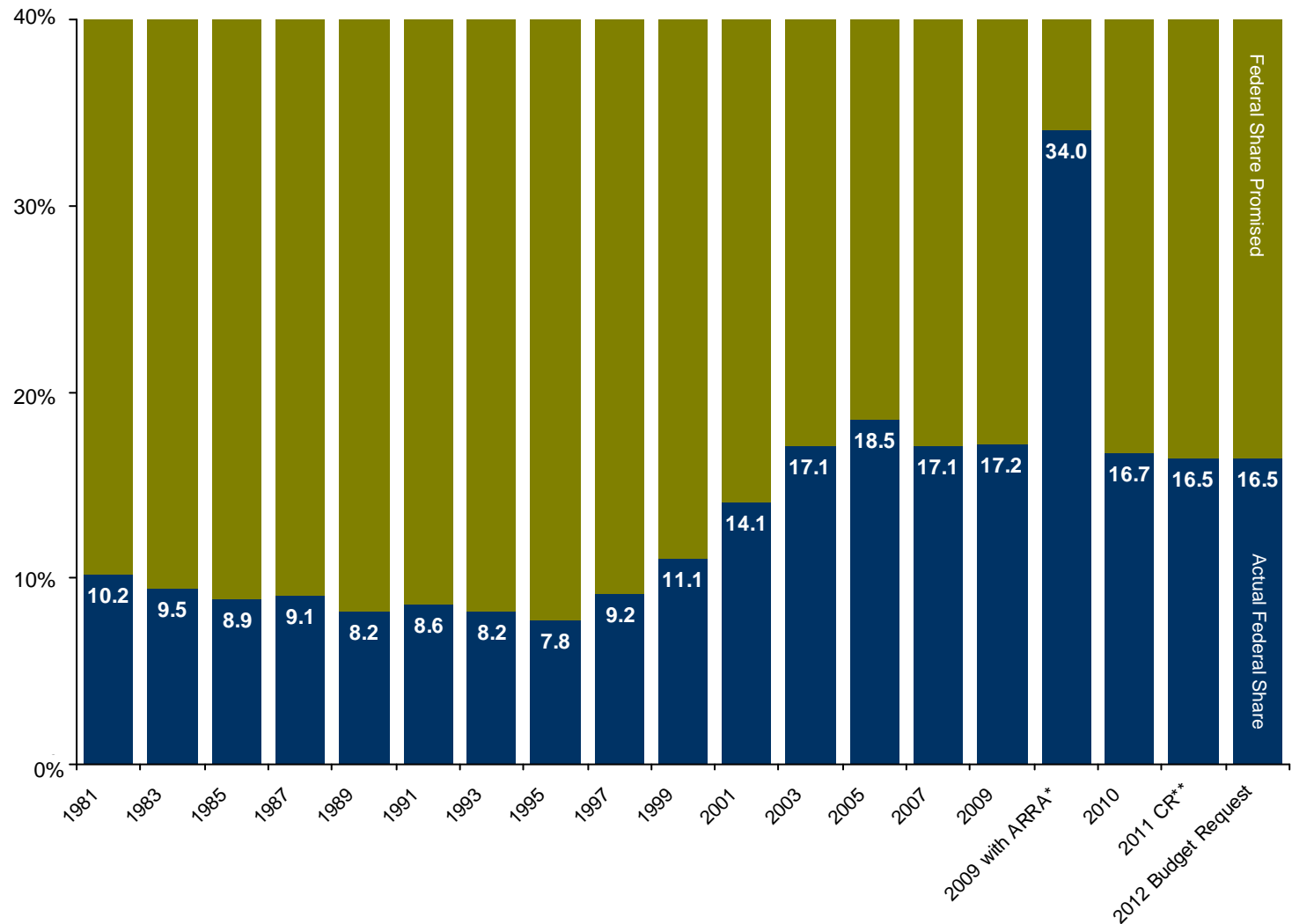


# IDEA Full Funding

Federal Share Promised in the Law vs. Actual Share, Selected Fiscal Years 1981-2012

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 payment has remained less than half of the federal promise (excluding 2009 with ARRA\*).



\* American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. \*\* Fourth Continuing Resolution (CR) (P.L. 111-322), annualized. Source: U.S. Department of Education and Congressional Research Service. The federal share is calculated from appropriations for Special Education Grants to States (IDEA Part B-611), excluding amounts available for studies and evaluations or technical assistance as applicable. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. As of February 16, 2011.