The Trump/DeVos Rollback

U.S. Department of Education
Budget Request, FY2018

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

Under the Trump/DeVos fiscal year 2018 budget request for Special Education Grants to States, the federal share of the excess cost of educating children with disabilities would dip below 15 percent for the first time since 2001. The federal commitment is 40 percent. States and school districts would be left to cover the federal shortfall—$19.9 billion in school year 2018-19.

What is the federal commitment? On average, the cost of educating children with disabilities is twice the cost (measured as the national average per pupil expenditure) of educating other children. Under the original legislation for special education, Congress determined that the federal government would pay up to 40 percent of this “excess” cost, which is referred to as full funding. The federal share has remained below 19 percent over the history of the legislation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2018 Budget Request</th>
<th>vs FY 2017 Appropriation</th>
<th>Federal Funding as a Percentage of the Average Per Pupil Expenditure</th>
<th>Federal Cost Shift to States and School Districts in 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Grants to States (IDEA Part B-611)</td>
<td>$11.9 billion</td>
<td>-$113 million</td>
<td>-0.9 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excludes one-time funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. | May 23, 2017