

APPROPRIATIONS

Overview

Infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents participate in and benefit from all federal public education and early childhood programs. A strong federal investment in programs that provide targeted support is critical to ensuring success in the early years, in school, and beyond, as well as increasing opportunities for all. Unfortunately, these programs are consistently and woefully underfunded, straining the entire education system.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the number of children with disabilities served under IDEA continues to grow, reaching an estimated high of 7.75 million during the 2023- 2024 school year. Stagnant federal funding, a rise in the number of eligible children, a growing shortage of personnel, and an increase in the price of services create significant budgetary challenges.

Members of Congress are Urged to:

- ▶ Invest no less than \$16.2 billion in IDEA Part B State Grants (Sec. 611)
- ▶ Invest \$932 million in IDEA Part C
- ▶ Invest \$503 million in IDEA Part B (Sec. 619)
- ▶ Invest \$300 million in IDEA Part D personnel preparation (Sec. 662)
- ▶ Invest \$70 million in the National Center for Special Education Research
- ▶ Invest \$32 million in the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Grants
- ▶ Invest \$250 million in School-Based Mental Health Professionals

FUNDING FAST FACTS

- ▶ Two-thirds of voters support increased funding for education (Navigator Research poll, November 2023)
- ▶ Without a significant increase for the IDEA grants to states program in FY 2025, the federal share will be 10.3% or one-quarter of “full funding” (U.S. Department of Education)
- ▶ Filling the \$31 billion gap between current funding and “full funding” could support more than 400,000 special education jobs (U.S. Department of Education)
- ▶ Students of color, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities show persistent underrepresentation in gifted and talented education programs or other advanced or accelerated learning opportunities (U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection)
- ▶ For the 2023-24 school year, 43 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia projected a shortage of qualified teachers in special education, more than for any other teacher shortage area by an eight-state margin (U.S. Department of Education)
- ▶ An estimated 50 percent of young people with treatable mental health disorders do not receive treatment (University of Michigan)