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*Education Priorities in the 117th
Congress: Individuals with
Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- IDEA Part B grants have a direct and immediate impact on the capacity of schools to provide all necessary services to students with disabilities.
- School districts educate an estimated 7.4 million students through IDEA, providing teachers, specialized instructional support personnel such as speech-language pathologists, therapists and school psychologists, and purchasing assistive technology.
- A majority of students with disabilities, through proper educational supports, are able to progress in the general education environment and graduate from high school on time.
- With more intensive supports provided through IDEA, students with more significant disabilities have an excellent opportunity to achieve academic success and successful postschool outcomes.
- Urge your Members of Congress to co-sponsor the **Keep Our PACT Act (S. 72 and H.R. 764)** that would establish a multi-year plan to increase the federal investment in Title I and IDEA.
<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/s72/BILLS-117s72is.pdf>

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- The current federal investment in IDEA is less than \$2,000 per student annually – or less than 16 percent – of the national average per pupil expenditure (APPE) of \$13,525 for 2021.
- The federal share of funding for IDEA is below the 40 percent of APPE promised by Congress when IDEA was first enacted in 1975.
- This amount does not acknowledge increased costs faced by local school districts and states in meeting the needs of students with disabilities, nor does it factor in the growing number of students.
- The increased costs for services and consistent underfunding of the federal investment have resulted in an erosion of purchasing power and resources.

Points of Reference

Please utilize the following reports that provide information about the shared federal-state-local investment needed for IDEA. While these reports were compiled in earlier years, the rationale helps inform policy questions relevant to why federal support for IDEA should be increased.

Education Commission of the States: A Look at Funding for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/17/72/11772.pdf>

Center for Special Education Finance: Special Education Expenditure Project
<https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/SEEP5-Total-Expenditures.pdf>

NSBA Background: <https://nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/nsba-idea-talking-points-2021.pdf?la=en&hash=B1079C2F405318B94EBFAC6F6D89FCE287A7D340>

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Working with and through our State Associations to
advocate for equity and excellence in public education
through school board leadership.

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The logo for the NSBA Advocacy Institute Online. It features the acronym "nsba" in a dark blue, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "Advocacy" is written in a large, red, cursive script. Underneath "Advocacy", the words "INSTITUTE" and "ONLINE" are stacked in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

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