



Funded: Special Education Report

Policies in Each State

Special Education

All states are required by federal law to provide educational services to students with disabilities. States provide increased funding for the education of these students in a variety of ways. Some special education funding approaches are based on the number of students with disabilities generally, or with specific disabilities, in a district, while others are based on the cost of services or on assumptions about special education prevalence. Some states provide specific funding only for extremely high-cost or atypical special-needs students. This report describes the type of special education funding system used in each state.

Alabama

Alabama funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.

Alaska

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Arizona

Arizona funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 11 different categories based on their specific disabilities.

Arkansas

Arkansas does not provide funding for special education in most cases, and state funds are set aside only for extremely high-cost or atypical special-needs students.

California

California funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.

Colorado

Colorado funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 2 different categories based on their specific disabilities.

Connecticut

Connecticut does not provide funding for special education in most cases, and state funds are set aside only for extremely high-cost or atypical special-needs students.

Delaware	Delaware funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services in a district based on the cost of the resources, staff positions in particular, required to do so.
Florida	Florida funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating multiple student weights and a block grant.
Georgia	Georgia funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 5 different categories based mostly on their specific disabilities.
Hawaii	Hawaii funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services based on the cost of the resources, staff positions in particular, required to do so.
Idaho	Idaho funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.
Illinois	Illinois funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating census-based assumptions and partial reimbursements.
Indiana	Indiana funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 4 different categories based mostly on their specific disabilities.
Iowa	Iowa funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 3 different categories based on their disabilities and the settings in which they receive special education services.
Kansas	Kansas funds special education using a partial reimbursement system, in which districts report their special education expenses to the state and receive reimbursement for a portion of those expenses.
Kentucky	Kentucky funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 3 different categories based on their specific disabilities.
Louisiana	Louisiana funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities.

Maine	Maine funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different groups of students. Students are assigned to 3 different categories based on the concentrations of students with disabilities in their districts.
Maryland	Maryland funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.74 to the per-student base amount for students with disabilities.
Massachusetts	Massachusetts funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.
Michigan	Michigan funds special education using a partial reimbursement system, in which districts report their special education expenses to the state and receive reimbursement for a portion of those expenses.
Minnesota	Minnesota funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating multiple student weights and partial reimbursement.
Mississippi	Mississippi funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services in a district based on the cost of the resources, staff positions in particular, required to do so.
Missouri	Missouri funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.75 to the per-student base amount for students with disabilities.
Montana	Montana funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.
Nebraska	Nebraska funds special education using a partial reimbursement system, in which districts report their special education expenses to the state and receive reimbursement for a portion of those expenses.
Nevada	Nevada passed legislation authorizing a new funding formula in 2015, and the details of the formula are still to be determined. However, the legislation includes a specific intention to provide increased funding for students with disabilities through a single student weight system.

New Hampshire	New Hampshire funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities.
New Jersey	New Jersey funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.
New Mexico	New Mexico funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 4 different categories based on the services they receive.
New York	New York funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities. It does so by applying a multiplier of 2.41 to the per-student base amount for students with disabilities.
North Carolina	North Carolina funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities.
North Dakota	North Dakota funds special education using a census-based system, assuming that a set percentage of students in each district will require special education services and using each district's full enrollment count to determine the amount of special education funding required.
Ohio	Ohio funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 6 different categories based on their specific disabilities.
Oklahoma	Oklahoma funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 13 different categories based on their specific disabilities.
Oregon	Oregon funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities. It does so by applying a multiplier of 2.0 to the per-student base amount for students with disabilities.
Pennsylvania	The state of Pennsylvania does not have a funding formula in use at this time. However, in practice, the state currently funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating multiple student weights and a block grant.

Rhode Island	Rhode Island does not, in most cases, provide funding in addition to the per-student base amount for special education, and state funds are set aside only for extremely high-cost or atypical special-needs students.
South Carolina	South Carolina funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 10 different categories based mostly on their specific disabilities.
South Dakota	South Dakota funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating multiple student weights and census-based assumptions.
Tennessee	Tennessee funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services in a district based on the cost of the resources, such as staff salaries and course materials, required to do so.
Texas	Texas funds special education using a multiple student weights system, providing different levels of funding for different categories of students. Students are assigned to 14 different categories based on the services they receive.
Utah	Utah funds special education using a block grant, with each district's grant amount based on allocations from a previous year. The state provides special education funding in an amount that is modified from year to year based on the growth in special education enrollment.
Vermont	Vermont funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating resource-based allocations and partial reimbursements.
Virginia	Virginia funds special education using a resource-based system, determining the cost of delivering special education services in a district based on the cost of the resources, staff positions in particular, required to do so.
Washington	Washington funds special education using a single student weight system, providing the same amount of state funding for each student with disabilities, regardless of the severity of those disabilities. It does so by applying a multiplier of 1.9309 to the district's Basic Education Act (BEA) allocation rate for students with disabilities. (The BEA allocation rate is the average amount spent on non-disabled students in the district as a result of the state's resource-based formula calculations.)
West Virginia	West Virginia funds special education using a hybrid system incorporating a single student weight and a block grant.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin funds special education using a partial reimbursement system, in which districts report their special education expenses to the state and receive reimbursement for a portion of those expenses.

Wyoming

Wyoming funds special education using a reimbursement system, in which districts report their special education expenses to the state and receive reimbursement for all of those expenses.

For a complete list of primary sources, please see the appropriate state page at funded.edbuild.org

