

## IDEA Full Funding: Hill Talking Points

When the IDEA passed in 1975, Congress understood that it was creating a mandate that would have increased financial impact at state and local levels. To assist states and local districts t promised to pay a significant share (40%) of the excess costs of educating a child with a disability. Funding the federal, state and local partnership to provide an equal educational opportunity for all students has not worked very well from the local district perspective. While special education funding has received significant increases over the past 18 years, funding has leveled off and even been cut in recent years. The closest the federal government has come to reaching its 40% commitment was 18% in 2005.

States must commit to providing a free appropriate public education to all eligible students as a condition of receiving annual Federal IDEA funds, creating a quagmire for states and local districts: Either fund the shortfall with state and local funds or forfeit Federal funds.

Investing in IDEA, a federal flagship formula program designed to help level the education playing field for students with disabilities, is an investment in our nation's students and their future. It indicates that Congress is serious in keeping its word to help school districts support all students. Our organizations strongly support full federal funding for IDEA. IDEA is the major—but not sole—vehicle for providing education to students with disabilities.

### Talking Points:

- Share the impact the IDEA Federal funding shortfall has on your district/school/classroom, including the encroachment on your general education budget.
- Explain to your members of Congress the financial relief that would come at the local level when Congress fully funds its commitment.
- Use the IDEA Invoice Template to calculate and share the IDEA shortfall for your state, district and/or classroom: <https://aasa.org/2022-idea-full-funding-invoices.aspx>
- Urge your senators and representatives to safeguard IDEA funding in the FY 23 appropriations process and to invest as much money as possible, with a priority on ensuring that IDEA is funded at a level that at least matches FY 22 plus the supplemental funding provided by the American Rescue Plan (\$15.9 billion). The President's FY 23 Budget Request of \$16.3 billion does just that, and the House appropriations bill has followed suit.
- Reiterate the importance of IDEA and its pressures on your local budgets and urge them to oppose any effort to further reduce federal effort in this chronically underfunded program.
- Urge your representative and senators to support the IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 5984 / S. 3213).

20 Years of Underfunding	
YEAR	Percent of APPE
2003	17%
2004	18%
2005	18%
2006	18%
2007	17%
2008	17%
2009	17%
2010	16%
2011	16%
2012	16%
2013	15%
2014	16%
2015	15%
2016	15%
2017	15%
2018	14%
2019	13%
2020	13%
2021	13%
2022	12%