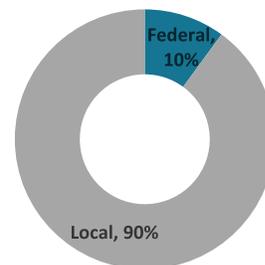


WASHINGTON, DC

AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	Independent Charter Board
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Independent Local Education Agency Part of a Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	No Link Partial Link
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Weighted funding—Funding allocated per student; amount increases based on student need.
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	15.04% (all public schools) 13.51% (charter schools)

WASHINGTON, DC
Revenue Sources,
FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
WASHINGTON, DC	\$18,485
US	\$11,009

*Sources on last page; click [here](#) for definitions

Charter School Funding

In D.C., funding for charter schools and public schools is based on the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) which guarantees a base amount per student.

Public charter schools in D.C. operate as independent LEAs and are authorized by the D.C. Public Charter Schools Board.

Schools that were chartered prior to the Special Education Quality Improvement Act of November 18, 2014 can choose whether to operate:

- As their own LEA, providing special education services to enrolled students on an *independent* basis.
OR
- As part of D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) for special education services only on a *dependent* basis.

All schools chartered after the Quality Improvement Act of November 2014, have been required to serve as independent LEAs. Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, **all** charter LEAs (except one) will be required to serve as independent LEAs providing special education services to enrolled students. (*Note: St. Coletta, which specifically serves students who have intellectual disabilities, autism or multiple disabilities, and a minimum of 24.5 hours of special education services on their IEP, will always remain dependent.*)

The Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) guarantees a base amount of funding per student (\$9,492 in FY2016) to cover the cost of providing general education services to every student. Adjustments are made for students in different grade levels and supplemental weights are applied to cover the costs of serving at-risk, ELL and special education students. The total local funding amount allocated to schools is based on UPSFF amounts multiplied by the number of students at different grade levels, and in various special needs categories.

In addition to the UPSFF formula, D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) receive funding and staffing from other city agencies, known as *intra-district funding*. These may include, for example, legal services from the Office of the Attorney General, construction services from the Department of General Services, school nurses placed by the Department of Health, and others. Public charter schools do not have access to these intra-district resources.

Public charter schools in D.C., unlike DCPS, receive a facilities allotment of approximately \$3,000 per student in addition to UPSFF.

State Special Education Funding

Special education funding is paid in addition to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) base amount. Five weights are used to determine special education funding amounts.

In 2016, most public charter schools in D.C. were independent and provided special education services to students, while some public charter schools contract with D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) to provide special education services. For these ‘dependent’ schools, DCPS is the LEA for special education.

In 2015-16, there were 11 dependent charter LEAs out of a total of 62 public charter schools. Schools are transitioning to independent status following the passage of the 2014 Special Education Quality Improvement Amendment Act which requires all dependent charter school LEAs to be independent LEAs by July 1, 2017 and report on those services to OSSE. After this date, only one charter LEA (St. Coletta) will be dependent. The requirement can be waived for schools with a special education population exceeding 90%.

In FY2015, LEAs receive between \$9,207 and \$33,127 in addition to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) base amount for students who qualify for special education services (excluding those in need of residential placements). Funding depends on the level of services they require.

Five weights are used to determine special education funding:

Level 1 - Eight hours or less per week of specialized services: 0.97

FY2015 Allocation: \$9,207

Level 2 - More than 8 hours and less than or equal to 16 hours per school week of specialized services: 1.2

FY2015 Allocation: \$11,390

Level 3 - More than 16 hours and less than or equal to 24 hours per school week of specialized services: 1.97

FY2015 Allocation: \$18,699

Level 4 - More than 24 hours per week which may include instruction in a self-contained (dedicated) special education school other than residential placement: 3.49

FY2015 Allocation: \$33,127

Level 5 - Residential: 1.67

FY2015 Allocation: \$15,852

Local Special Education Funding/Services

N/A

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

Federal IDEA funds are not included in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF). IDEA funds flow from the U.S. Department of

High-Cost Funds

The District of Columbia’s Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) does not administer a high cost fund.

LEAs may apply for additional categorical federal or district funding for students with high cost, low-incidence disabilities who require services that exceed their weighted per pupil allotment.

If a school is unable to meet the unique needs of a child, OSSE will work with the family to place them into another school, public or private, at no additional cost to the family. There is a funding mechanism within OSSE for the nonpublic placement of students with disabilities. In the

Medicaid

Department of Health Care Finance Medicaid for Schools

Reimbursement for Medicaid expenses is available to charter school LEAs based on a fee schedule. All claims are submitted through D.C. Administrative Services Organization (ASO) which acts as a compliance check. Reimbursement depends on the number of eligible students and the type of service received. Schools can choose to work with a third party billing agent, or submit claims independently. \$4 million was reimbursed for school-based health care to all D.C. schools in FY2014.

OSSE's Medicaid Recovery Unit (MRU), is working to educate charter schools on Medicaid reimbursement. OSSE works with the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) to provide information to schools about the program. As of October 19, 2015, DHCF reported that 13 charter schools

References / Resources

Reference Links

District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Special Education
<http://osse.dc.gov/page/special-education>

Funding links

District of Columbia School Finance Primer, D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute
<http://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Revised-School-Primer-March2015-FINAL.pdf>

Medicaid links

Medicaid in Charter Schools FAQ, D.C. Special Education Cooperative
<http://specialedcoop.org/coop/wp-content/uploads/Medicaid-FAQ-for-charters2015.pdf>

Departments/Organizations

District of Columbia Public Charter School Board
District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Sources for data on first page of report

Percentage of students with disabilities: U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2013-14 school year. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2013-14.html>

Federal, state, and local revenue sources & spending per pupil: United States Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances. Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>