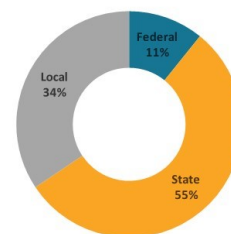


ALABAMA

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| AUTHORIZER TYPE(S) | Independent Charter Board Local Education Agency |
| LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS | Local Education Agency |
| LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT | Partial Link (LEA Authorizer) No Link (ICB Authorizer) |
| STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA | Weighted—Funding allocated per student; amount increases based on student need. |
| % OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES | No Data Available |

ALABAMA Revenue Sources, FY 2014



| FY 2014 | Spending Per Pupil |
|---------|--------------------|
| ALABAMA | \$9,028 |
| US | \$11,009 |

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

Charter School Funding

Sources of Funds for Charters

Charter schools operate as LEAs and may be authorized by a local school board or by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission. Each local education agency reports enrollment, attendance, and other counts of students to the Department of Education. The Average Daily Membership (ADM) for the prior school year is used in the calculation of the per pupil state/local funding amount known in Alabama as the *Foundation Program*.

The local percentage contribution or 'state-required' match varies according to the affluence/poverty level of the local school system, with poorer systems receiving a greater funding percentage from the state. A public charter school receives the same amount of local tax revenue for each of its students that would have otherwise been allocated to the student by the local traditional district, although a deduction is made for debt service and capital expenditures. A cap of 10 mills of local funds is applied to charter schools. Funding flows to charter school LEAs from the department of education. In addition to Foundation Program funding, schools receive allocations for transportation, school nurses and technology coordinators.

State transportation funding is disbursed to charter schools on the same basis as it is paid to public school systems. A public charter school may enter into a contract with a school system or private provider to provide transportation to the school's students.

State Special Education Funding

Funding for public charter schools is based on the Foundation Program allocation and other public school Education Trust Fund Appropriations.

A calculation to determine how many units a school needs to operate is made by adding:

1. Instructional support units (principal = 1 unit, Guidance = 0.5 units and library = 1 unit) to
2. Teaching units, which are calculated using this formula:

$$\text{Average Daily Membership (ADM) (for each grade) / Divisor (see below) = Derived Units}$$

Divisor for K-3=14.25

Divisor 4-6 = 21.85

Divisor 7-8 = 20.20

Divisor 9-12 = 18.45

3. An adjustment is made to the derived units to weight special education costs. The state assumes that special education students comprise a flat 5% of all full-time students and their needs are 2.5 times as much as a regular student. Thus, the adjustment reflects 5% ADM weighted at 2.50.
4. An adjustment is also made for vocational education costs.

Local Special Education Funding/Services

Charter schools can choose to contract for services with the local district, a nonpublic school or agency, or another public charter school to provide a level or type of service that is not available at their site.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

Federal funds flow through the department of education to the LEA and on to the school.

High Cost Funds

The **Alabama Catastrophic Trust Fund for Special Education** is in place in to provide districts with financial assistance in cases where provision of services is “unduly expensive, extraordinary and / or beyond the routine and reasonable education and services provided.” Claims are reviewed on an individual basis, and must be submitted by a county or city board of education.

Alabama Medicaid

LEAs can contract with Alabama Medicaid to become providers of Medicaid services. All services must be documented in student IEPs. An electronic claims submission system is in place.

References / Resources

*The Alabama State Department of Education did not respond to requests to review and approve the information in this report.

Reference Sites

Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services

<https://www.alsde.edu/sec/ses/Pages/home.aspx>

Funding links

Alabama Public Charter Schools, FAQs, ALSDE

<https://www.alsde.edu/sec/cs/Documents/Public%20Charter%20School%20Preliminary%20Guidance-Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf>

Special Needs Transportation, ALSDE

<https://www.alsde.edu/ofc/cs/Guidelines/Pupil%20Transportation.pdf#search=per%20pupil%20fundingfoundation>

A Guide to State Allocation Calculations, 2015-16, ALSDE

<https://www.alsde.edu/sec/leafa/State%20Allocations/Guide%20to%20State%20Allocations%202015-16.pdf>

High-cost links

Alabama Catastrophic Trust Fund for Special Education

<https://www.alsde.edu/sites/memos/Memoranda/FY13-2091.pdf>

Medicaid links

Alabama Medicaid

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/6.0_Providers/6.7_Manuals/6.7.7_Provider_Manuals_2013/6.7.7.4_October_2013/Oct13_103.pdf

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>