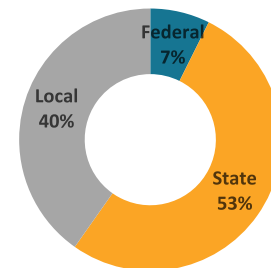


AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	State Education Agency Local Education Agency
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Part of a Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	Partial Link (LEA Authorizer)
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Weighted Funding—Funding allocated per student; amount increases based on student need.
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	12.24% (all public schools) 24.83% (charter schools)

IOWA Revenue Sources, FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
INDIANA	\$10,668
US	\$11,009

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

Charter School Funding

Under Iowa state law, charter schools must remain part of the traditional district LEA. The law requires state and federal funding to flow to the district, with a portion going to the Area Education Agency (AEA) which has responsibility for oversight of special education services to students within its service area. There are no specific statutes regarding amounts charters must receive. All details are negotiated with the local school board as part of the charter. In 2016, the average state funding per pupil was \$6,446.

State Special Education Funding

In Iowa, special education services are provided via the district, and charter schools do not directly receive any funding for special education.

Funding generated through the school aid formula for special education purposes consists of state aid (appropriated from the State General Fund) and local property taxes. Federal and state special education funding follows students to their district LEAs which provide services for all special education students in both district and charter schools under their jurisdiction. A portion goes to the Area Education Agency (AEA) which has responsibility for oversight of special education services to students within its service area.

Districts receive weighted funding for special education based on a student's level of disability. The funding amount is determined by multiplying the district per pupil cost by the special education weighting level. There are three weightings.

- **Level 1** - Students receiving specially designed instruction for a part of the educational program (includes modifications and adaptations to the general education program): **0.72 weight** (most students fall into level 1).
- **Level 2** - Students receiving specially designed instruction for a majority of the educational program (includes substantial modifications, adaptations, and special education accommodations to the general education program): **1.21 weight**.
- **Level 3** - Students receiving specially designed instruction for most or all of the educational program (requires extensive redesign of curriculum and substantial modification of instructional techniques, strategies and materials) and applies to students with severe disabilities or multiple disabilities: **2.74 weight**.

A School Budget Review Committee reviews weighting levels biennially though the weights have not changed since 2004.

Local Special Education Funding/Services

Funding generated through the school aid formula for special education purposes consists of state aid (appropriated from the State General Fund) and local property taxes. The district LEA provides services for all special education students in district and charter schools.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

Charters are part of the district LEA, and the school district is responsible for provision of special education services. Charters must comply with all federal special education laws that apply to traditional public schools. Charter schools do not receive any distribution of funding related to special education students.

High-Cost Funds

Iowa High Cost Fund

Iowa High Cost Fund reimburses LEAs or Area Education Agencies (AEAs) where special education instructional costs exceed three times the state's average per pupil education expenditure. In 2015, three times the average per pupil amount was \$40,707.

Iowa law does not provide for any funding of low-incidence, high-cost services for charter schools specifically. Claims are individualized to students and school districts.

Medicaid

Iowa School-Based Medicaid

Reimbursement from the Iowa Medical Assistance Program is available to LEAs and Area Education Agencies (AEAs) for services identified on IEPs. In 2013-14, AEAs and LEAs received more than \$55 million in federal Medicaid funds for special education services.

References / Resources

Reference Links

State Department of Education Special Education link
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education>

Funding links

State School Aid Funding for Special Education, LSA Legislative Services Agency
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/LSA/IssReview/2014/IRSL001.PDF>

[Special Education Finance, Iowa](https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/school-business-and-finance/special-education/special-education-finance) Department of Education
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/school-business-and-finance/special-education/special-education-finance>

High-cost links

Iowa Plan for High Cost Fund
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/AmendedPartB%20-%20Iowa%20Plan%20High%20Cost%20Fund%20-%202014.pdf>

Medicaid links

Medicaid FAQs, Iowa Department of Education
https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/1314_sfin_medicaid_faqs_072913.pdf

Departments/Organizations

Iowa Department 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>