Education Funding: IDEA
What do you need to know?

IDEA, PART B

What is it?
IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) provides over $12 billion in federal education funding. Over $11 billion of this is dedicated to IDEA, Part B to offset the cost of the education needs of students with disabilities from ages 3-21.

How are funds distributed?
States distribute this federal funding to school districts based on the number of students with individualized education plans. These funds serve students across a broad spectrum of disabilities.

What can be funded?
Schools must use IDEA funds to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities. In addition to paying for special education teachers and administrators, funds can be used for related services (e.g., speech therapists and psychologists), materials and supplies, professional development, and specialized equipment and devices.

• Early intervening services (EIS) allow school districts to allocate up to 15% of their IDEA, Part B funds for coordinated programs and services targeting low-achieving and at-risk students not identified with a learning disability. EIS is typically used to support a response to intervention (RTI) model. In a 2011 RTI survey, respondents stated they had financed 26% of their RTI program with EIS funds.

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