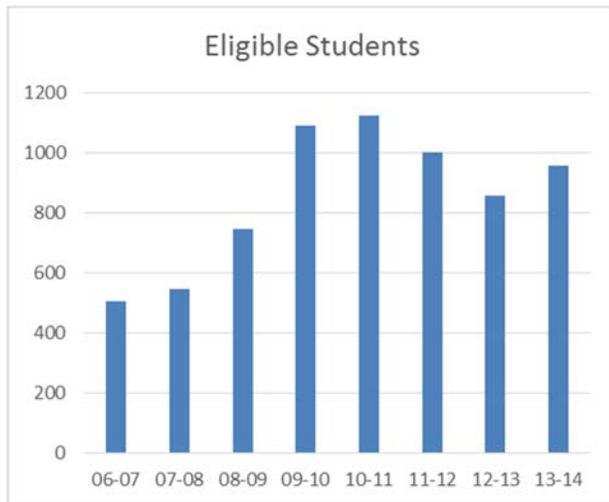


Special Education Intensive Services Fund

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that districts and charter schools provide a “free and appropriate public education” to every child with a disability. These educational services are provided to students based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which must be developed by parents and school teams without regard for the cost of services.

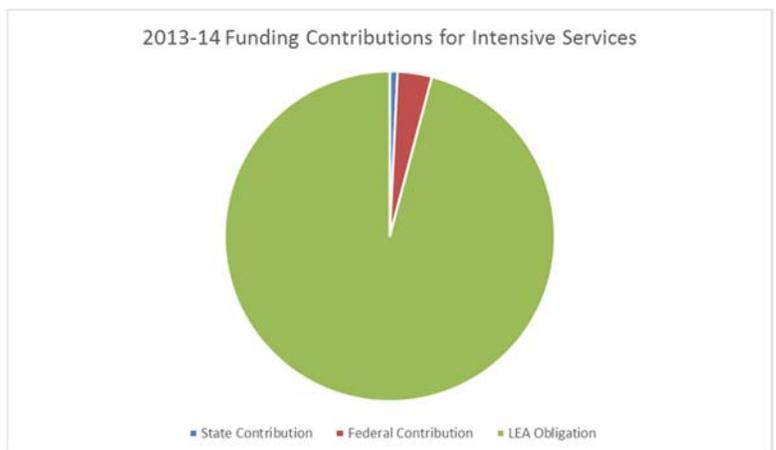


Special education services may include services such as one-on-one nursing, highly specialized technology, physical therapy, sign language interpreting, individual paraprofessional support, extremely low student to teacher ratios, and other services that are required for the student to benefit from special education and prepare for college, career, and independent living. Less than 1% of students require this high level of intensity, but **the number of students with this level of need continues to increase.**

With an increased focus on setting high expectations for student achievement, the need to improve results for students with disabilities has never been greater. However, the state investment that helps districts and charter schools to achieve improvement has not kept pace with the demand, especially for students who require intensive services.

Thirty-two states including Utah have a fund designed to cover all or some of the costs of students who require intensive services. Utah Code 53A-17a-112 allows funding for Special Education – State Programming, which includes \$225,000 for students whose special education services cost more than 3 times the state average. The USOE provides another \$1,000,000 in IDEA funding each year. In 2013-2014, LEAs spent **\$28,548,540** to provide required intensive services for students.

It is critical that the state’s investment in special education keep pace with rising costs. In addition the state’s commitment to support districts and charter schools in creating quality programs for students with intensive needs is essential. The high cost fund provides reimbursement for the cost of intensive services after the LEA has spent at least \$19,683 per student. The current funding level supports costs for only one quarter of districts and charter schools, and has not seen an increase since it was created eight years ago.



This fund was intended to provide relief to support the education of students with the most intensive services. Over the past 8 years, the number of students who require intensive services has increased dramatically. However, the funding has not increased at a comparable rate. **Current available funding has dropped from meeting 43% of the need to meeting less than 12% of the need.**

What can be done to improve outcomes for students with disabilities?

1. Invest in students with disabilities by providing weighted pupil unit (WPU) funding for special education add-on that is at least equal to the funding level received for K-12 basic programs, increasing the add-on allocation by \$18,395,360.
2. Increase the commitment from the state to students from age 3-22 with the most intensive service needs. To meet the need above the LEA contribution of \$19,683 per student requires an allocation of **\$10,253,219** in 2015-2016 and ongoing with increases based on LEA expenses.

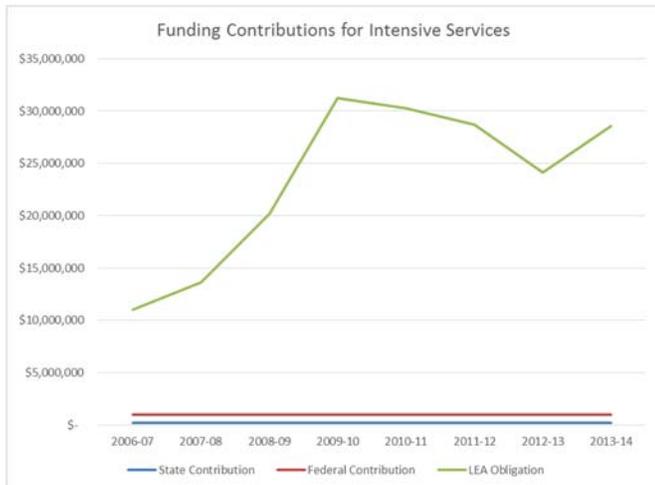
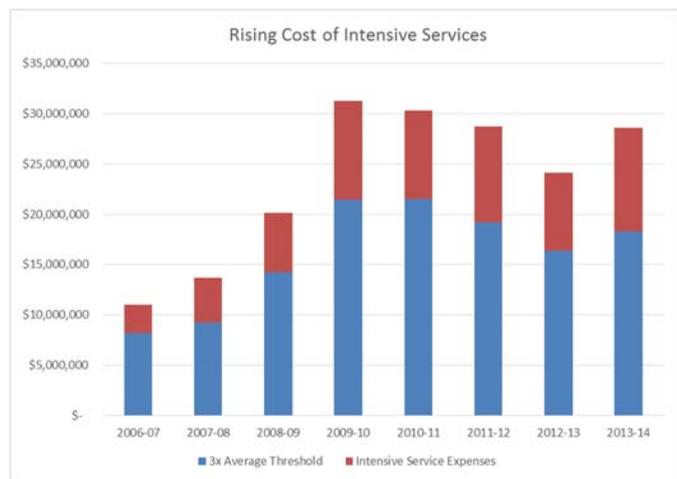
Special Education Intensive Services Fund

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that districts and charter schools provide a “free and appropriate public education” to every child with a disability. These educational services are provided to students based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which must be developed by parents and school teams without regard for the cost of services. Intensive services required for the student to benefit from special education and prepare for college, career, and independent living may include:

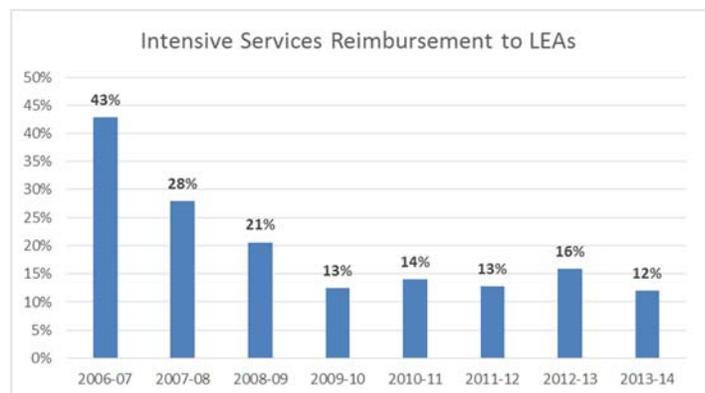
- one-on-one nursing \$95,000 per year, per child
- highly specialized technology \$5,000 - \$20,000 per individual device
- sign language interpreting \$65,000 per year, per child
- individual paraprofessional support \$46,000 per year, per child

In 2013-2014 LEAs spent **\$28,548,540** to provide these required intensive services for students.

- Add-WPU: \$2726 + Self-Contained WPU: \$2972 = \$5698 per student x 957 students = \$5,452,986
- Medicaid reimbursement: \$1,730,717
- Intensive Services Fund: \$1,225,000
- Gap: \$21,364,837



Current available funding has dropped from meeting 43% of the need to meeting **less than 12%** of the need.



Support the Utah State Board of Education priority request for \$10,000,000 ongoing for the Intensive Services Fund!