

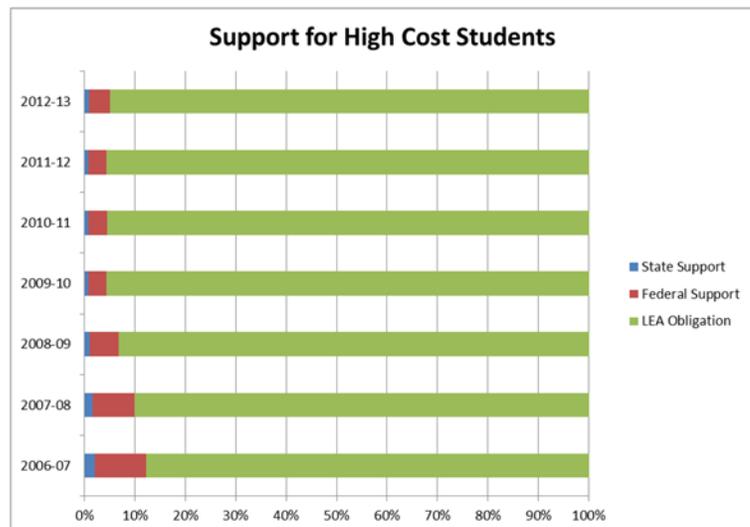
## High Cost Risk Pool Special Education budget priority

Special education services are determined by the IEP team, and may include services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, nursing, individual paraprofessional support, and extremely low student to teacher ratios. The IEP may also require expensive equipment or highly specialized technology. Less than 1% of students require this high level of intensity.

Utah Code 53A-17a-112 allows funding for Special Education – State Programming, which includes funding for students whose special education services cost more than 3 times the state average. Students who participate in this program receive services costing a minimum of \$19,152 annually and ranging up to over \$80,000 annually.

Utah districts and charter schools receive minimal support to address these program needs. The State uses IDEA funds (\$1,000,000) to establish a High Cost Risk Pool. In addition, \$225,000 of the Special Education – State Programs allocation is designated for the High Cost Risk Pool.

Even with support from these two different funding sources, LEAs typically receive reimbursement for a fraction of their qualifying expenditures. Over the past 7 years,



the number of students who require high cost services has dramatically increased. However, the funding has not increased at a comparable rate. The available funding has dropped from meeting 40% of the need to meeting less than 15% of the need. Because of the great disparity between need and available funds, only 25-30% of LEAs access this program, and participating LEAs only submit their most costly students, rather than submitting data for all qualifying students. The amounts presented here are an underestimate of the true need within the state.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>Qualifying Students</b>	506	547	746	1089	1125	1001	856
<b>Threshold Expenditures</b>	\$ 8,192,646	\$ 9,263,445	\$ 14,218,014	\$ 21,444,588	\$ 21,508,875	\$ 19,150,131	\$ 16,394,112
<b>LEA Expenses Over 3x Average</b>	\$ 2,858,207	\$ 4,394,108	\$ 5,926,986	\$ 9,784,590	\$ 8,754,455	\$ 9,570,671	\$ 7,728,601
<b>Total High Cost Expense</b>	\$ 11,050,853	\$ 13,657,553	\$ 20,145,000	\$ 31,229,178	\$ 30,263,330	\$ 28,720,802	\$ 24,122,713

The impact of these services is disproportionate to some LEAs when compared with the rest of the state. Students may be placed in educational settings outside their district of residence by social services programs such as Youth in Custody, DCFS, or DSPD. The districts with preferred placements (group homes, foster families, etc) in their boundaries are required to provide the services described in the IEP, even if the family does not reside within the district boundary. For these districts, the cost to provide these services is quickly becoming a burden on the available resources.