

Background Information

State special education funding refers to the state funds charter schools may receive to support students with disabilities. Generally, state-level special education funding schemes fall into one of seven categories that consider such variables as average number of students with disabilities, the severity of individual students’ disabilities, and average cost of services provided:

1. **Weighted funding:** Funding allocated per student with a disability and amount (i.e., weight) increases based on severity of disability, type of placement, or student need. Weighted formulas may be based on a single factor (e.g., disability diagnosis) or multiple factors (e.g., diagnosis and services provided).
2. **Census-based distribution:** A fixed average per-pupil dollar amount of funding allocated per state average rates of disabilities, regardless of specific rate of disabilities in each district or school.
3. **Resource-based funding:** Funding based on payment for a certain number of special education resources (e.g., teachers or classroom units), typically determined by state-prescribed staff/student ratios.
4. **Percentage reimbursement:** Funding based on a percentage of allowable actual expenditures.
5. **Block grant:** Funding based on base-year or prior-year allocations, revenues, and/or enrollment.
6. **Combination of approaches:** Funding based on a combination of census and weighted formulas.
7. **No separate special education funding:** Funding to support special education is rolled into overall state per-pupil allocation funding levels and is distributed by localities as they choose.

This report lists the funding formula used by each state.

Special Education Funding Formula by State

State	WEIGHTED FUNDING	CENSUS-BASED DISTRIBUTION	RESOURCE-BASED FUNDING	PERCENTAGE REIMBURSEMENT	BLOCK GRANT	COMBINATION OF APPROACHES	NO SEPARATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING
Alabama	✓						
Alaska						✓	
Arizona	✓						
Arkansas							✓
California		✓					
Colorado		✓					
Connecticut							✓
Delaware			✓				
D.C.	✓						

Special Education Funding Formula by State (cont.)							
State	WEIGHTED FUNDING	CENSUS-BASED DISTRIBUTION	RESOURCE-BASED FUNDING	PERCENTAGE REIMBURSEMENT	BLOCK GRANT	COMBINATION OF APPROACHES	NO SEPARATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING
Florida	✓						
Georgia	✓						
Hawaii	✓						
Idaho		✓					
Illinois						✓	
Indiana							
Iowa	✓						
Kansas				✓			
Kentucky	✓						
Louisiana	✓						
Maine						✓	
Maryland						✓	
Massachusetts		✓					
Michigan							
Minnesota				✓			
Mississippi			✓				
Missouri						✓	
Nevada	✓						
New Hampshire	✓						
New Jersey		✓					
New Mexico	✓						
New York	✓						
North Carolina	✓						
Ohio	✓						
Oklahoma	✓						
Oregon	✓						
Pennsylvania			✓				
Rhode Island							✓

Special Education Funding Formula by State (cont.)							
State	WEIGHTED FUNDING	CENSUS-BASED DISTRIBUTION	RESOURCE-BASED FUNDING	PERCENTAGE REIMBURSEMENT	BLOCK GRANT	COMBINATION OF APPROACHES	NO SEPARATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING
South Carolina	✓						
Tennessee			✓				
Texas	✓						
Utah					✓		
Virginia			✓				
Washington	✓						
Wisconsin				✓			
Wyoming				✓			