

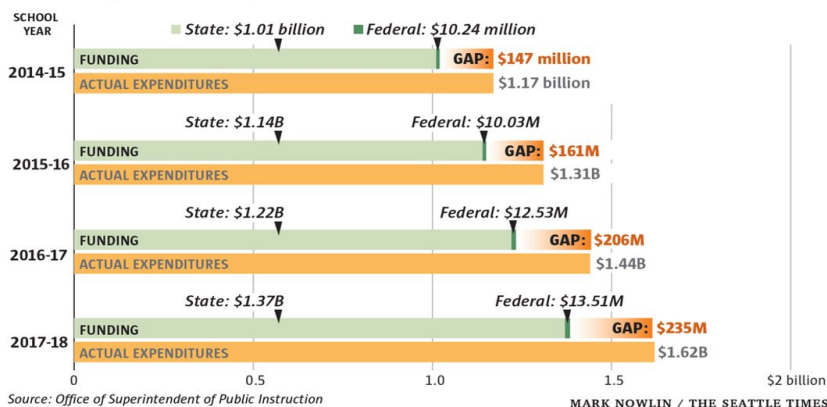
WSPTA recognizes that now is the time to reimagine a fully funded education model for students with disabilities in the highest quality framework; where parents and families are supported as essential partners in the education; and students smoothly and successfully transition to adult life so that EVERY child can reach his or her full potential.

Background

- While the Legislature has added funding for the Special Education program since 2017, a significant shortfall remains between what it costs to support educational services for students with disabilities and what the state and federal government funds. OSPI has estimated the gap is \$300 million a year. This becomes an equity issue, when districts must rely on their enrichment levy to deliver federally required educational services.¹

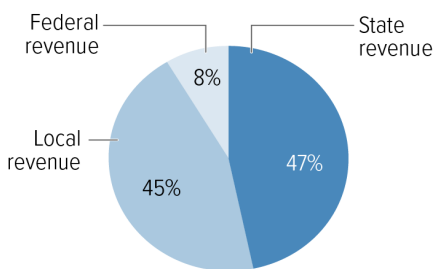
Growing gap in funding for special education

School districts in Washington continue to spend much more than they collect from the state and federal government for special education.



States Provide Nearly Half of Public School Funding

Share of total K-12 education funding, 2016



CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities²

(please continue to next page)

For More Information

Lizzy Sebring, WSPTA Advocacy Director
ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org

Marie Sullivan, WSPTA Legislative Consultant
legconsultant@wastatepta.org

For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website (www.wastatepta.org).

- The Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee charged by RCW 28A.300.136³ identified systemic bias within our special education system and recommends that culturally responsive strategies be put in place throughout the IEP and family engagement process.⁴
- According to the Washington State Special Education Advisory Council’s 2019-20 recommendations “While there are efforts to strengthen parent participation in the education of students with disabilities, culturally responsive family and community engagement should be woven into **all** of education and recognized as an integral component of student success.”⁵

Proposed Solutions

Washington State PTA shall support legislation and policies that uphold the following for students with disabilities and their families:

- Make resources, program services, parent education, and training accessible including:
 - Local resource centers
 - Implementation of a statewide online portal
- Ensure that a range of appropriate devices and assistive technology is available
- Provide access to multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)
- Remove barriers and increase flexibility within categorical funds to meet the greatest needs
- Remove the 13.5% cap on funded enrollment for districts
- Fully fund and implement the federal government’s obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Citations

1. https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/pubdocs/Feb2019SEAC_FundingStatement.pdf
2. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/a-punishing-decade-for-school-funding>
3. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.300.136>
4. <https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/workgroups/eogoac/pubdocs/2020%20EOGOAC%20Report.pdf>
5. <https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/pubdocs/Families%20as%20Partners%20Recommendations%20-%20SEAC%20Position%20Paper%202019-2020.pdf>