

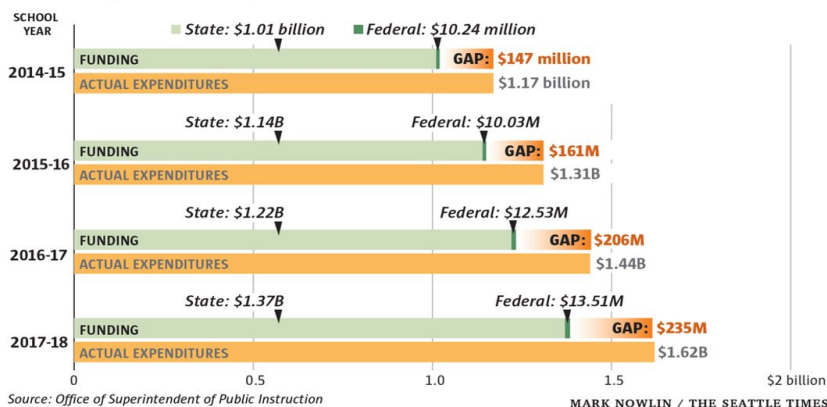
**WSPTA recognizes that now is the time to reimagine a fully funded education model for students with disabilities in the highest quality framework; where parents and families are supported as essential partners in the education; and students smoothly and successfully transition to adult life so that EVERY child can reach their 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 or local effort assistance to deliver federally required educational services.<sup>1</sup>

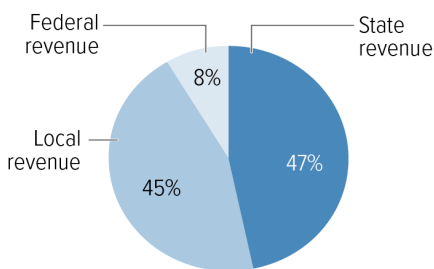
**Growing gap in funding for special education**

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 Priorities<sup>2</sup>

*(please continue to next page)*

**For More Information**

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**For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website ([www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)).**

- The Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee charged by RCW 28A.300.136<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.”<sup>5</sup>

## 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)

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## Citations

1. [https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/pubdocs/Feb2019SEAC\\_FundingStatement.pdf](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>