

Educational Funding – Special Education

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Purpose

Address: (1) the most significant issues regarding special education funding in Illinois; (2) service delivery within the context of school districts and special education cooperatives and; (3) the challenges related to private placements

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Special Education Data

- During past 10 years approximately 290,000 – 326,000 students per year have received special education
- For high incidence, in general, students with intellectual disability, specific learning disability, speech/language, and emotional disability has decreased over time
- In general, other health impaired, developmental delay, and autism has increased over time

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Special Education Data

- During the past ten years for low incidence, in general, students with orthopedic impairment and hearing impairment has decreased over time
- In general, students with visual impairment, deafness, deaf-blind, and traumatic brain injury has remained stable over time
- In general, students with multiple impairments has increased over time

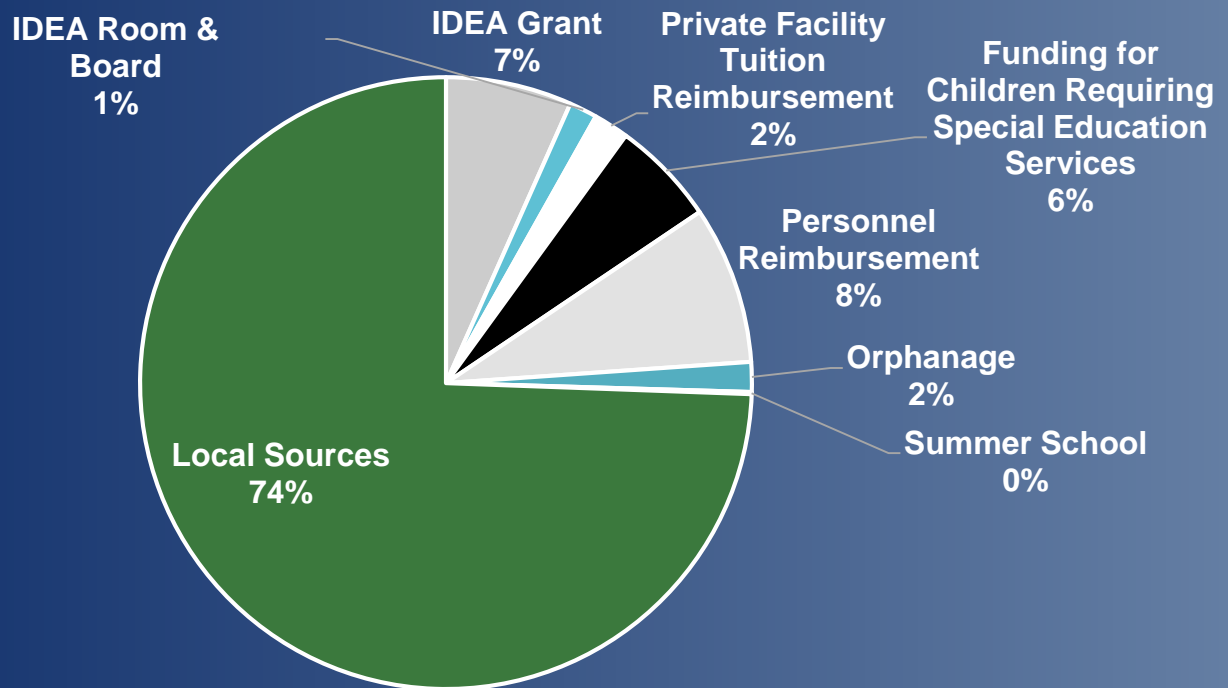
Educational Funding – Special Education

Funding

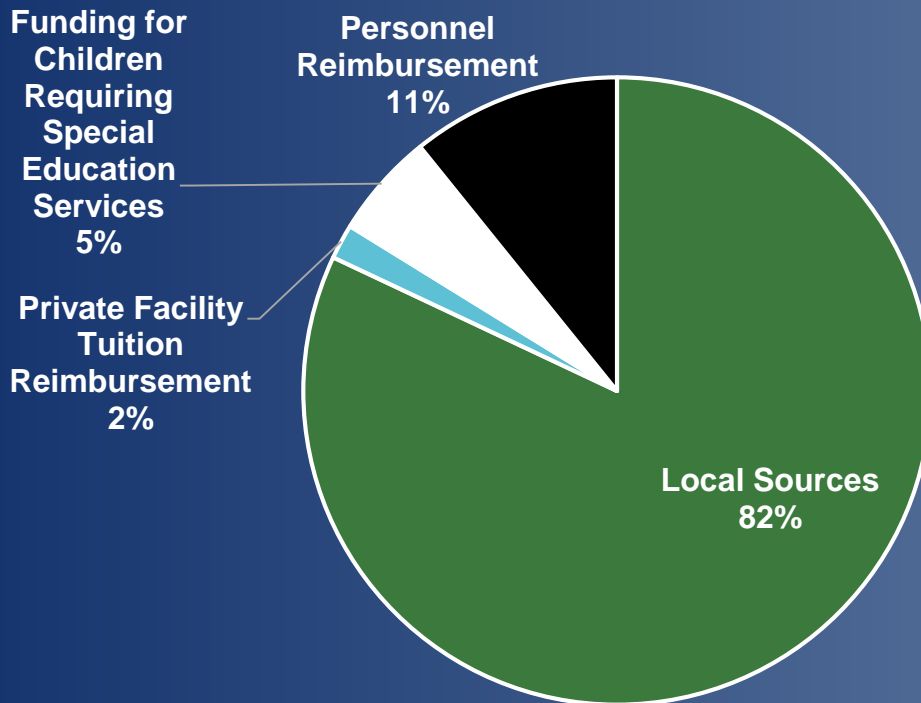
In Illinois, local school districts' sources of funds to expend on special education:

- Federal: approximately 1-5%
- State: approximately 16-75%
- Local: approximately 20-85%

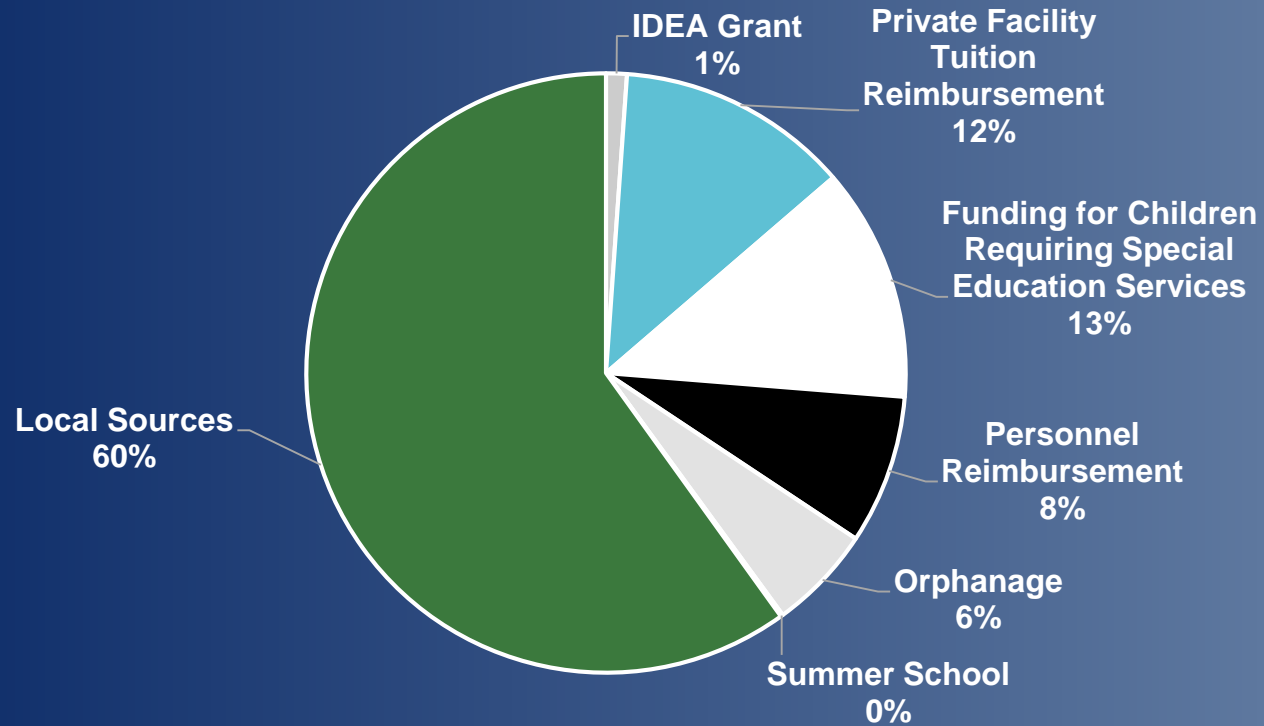
Township High School District 211



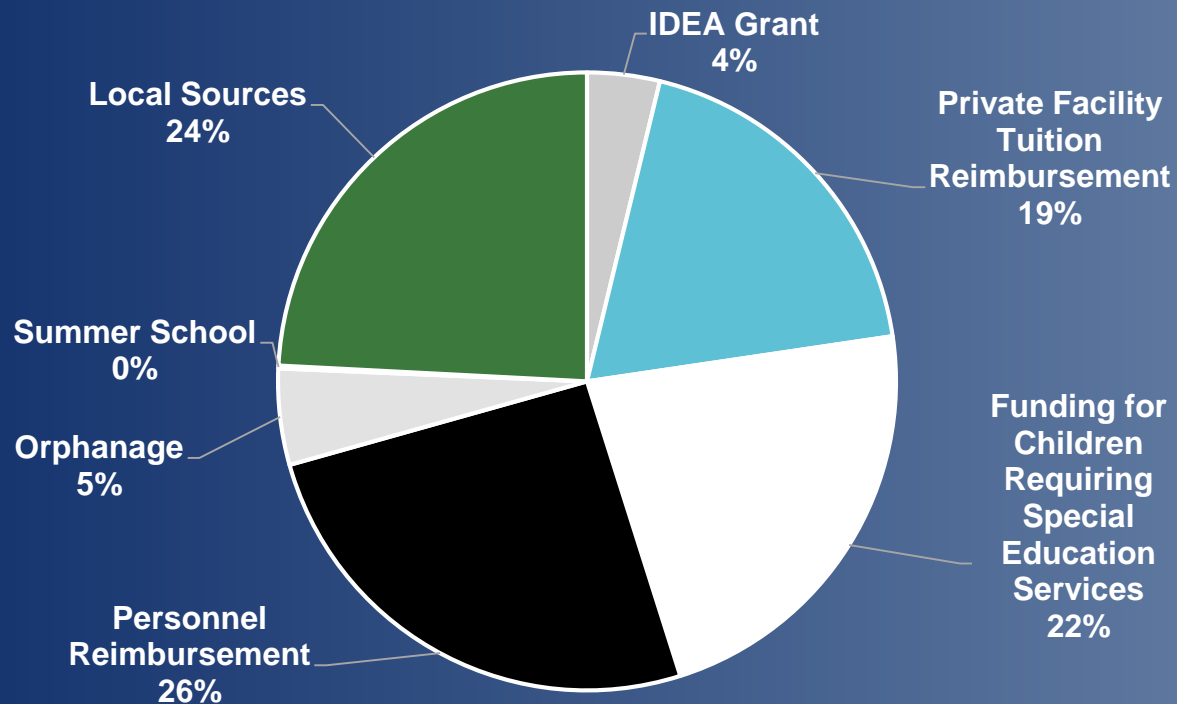
Pontiac High School District 90



Westchester School District 92.5



Taylorville CUSD 3



Educational Funding –
Special Education

Funding from Federal Sources

	Flow Through	Pre-School
FY16	\$514,696,307	\$17,118,363
FY15	\$500,249,065	\$16,488,219
FY14	\$499,269,921	\$16,488,219
FY13	\$479,681,039	\$16,488,199
FY12	\$505,828,941	\$17,308,047
FY11	\$501,248,821	\$17,337,847

Educational Funding – Special Education

Funding: State - Personnel

- Special education personnel reimbursement is intended to provide funding for school districts and special education cooperatives employing the necessary staff to serve children and youth with disabilities, ages 3-21 years old.
- Staff that are employed for these specialized purposes include teachers, school social workers, school nurses, school psychologists, school counselors, physical and occupational therapists, individual or classroom aides, readers, administrators, and other staff assigned to work in the area of special education.
- The State reimburses local school districts and special education cooperatives \$9,000 per qualified worker and \$3,500 per non-certified staff employed on a full-time basis for the school year, depending on the final reimbursement level.

Educational Funding – Special Education

School District & Cooperative

- Approximately 90% of school districts are in a special education joint agreement cooperative
- There is no standard method of governance for cooperatives
- District & cooperative relationship, function and governance determined locally

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Special Education Continuum of Placements

Less
Restrictive



More
Restrictive

No special education or related services

General Education for 80% or more of the school day

General Education for 40-79% of the school day

General Education for less than 39% of the school day

Special Education Public Placement

Special Education Private Placement

Residential Placement

Home/ Hospital Placement

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Private Placements & Equalization

- Programming & Services have evolved
- Reimbursement system has not evolved comparably
- Reimbursement system disincentive for LRE

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Private Placements & Equalization

The current rules allow for schools to be reimbursed for services provided to students placed in the public setting when their costs exceed four times the per capita spent in that school district. This money is available only in certain years.

The current rules allow for schools to be reimbursed for services provided to students placed in the private setting when their costs exceed two times the per capita spent in that school district. This money is appropriated every year.

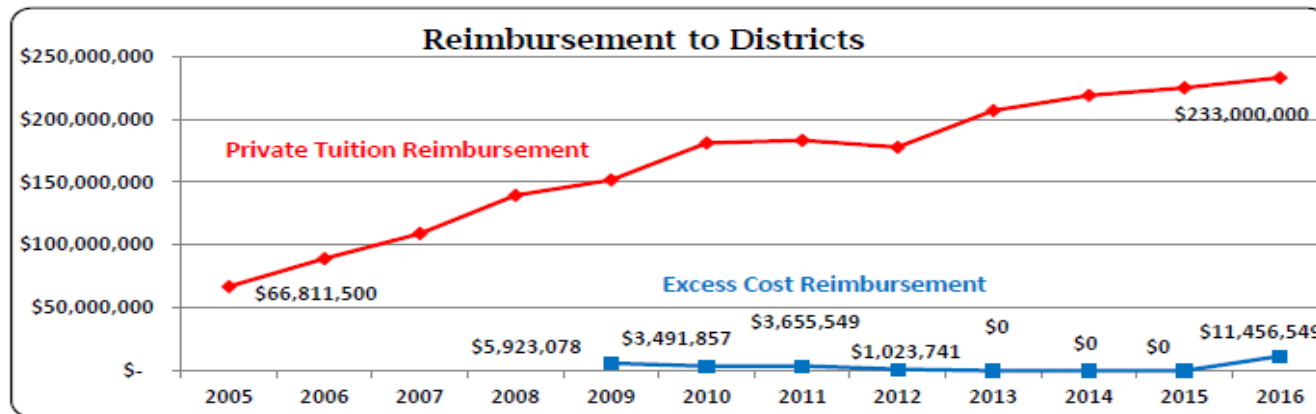
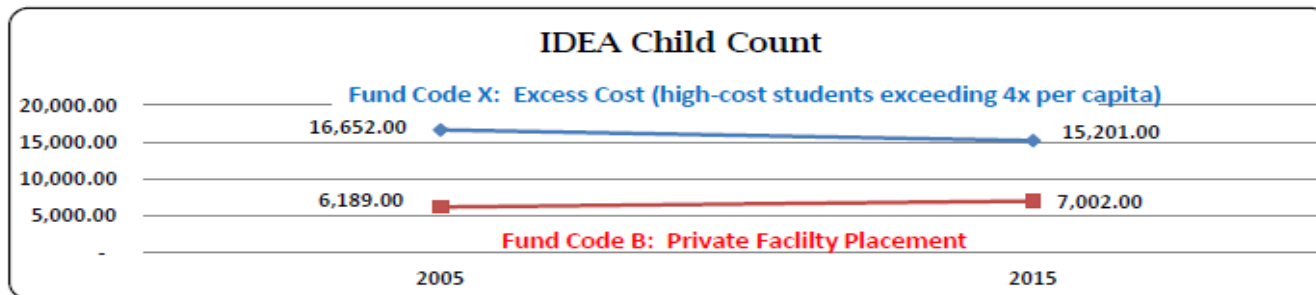
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Private Placements & Equalization

Educational Placement	Services Included	Education Cost for Student	State Reimbursement to District	Net Cost to District
Public Home School	Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class	\$58,532	\$31	\$58,501
Public Separate School	Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class	\$61,068	\$82	\$60,986
Private School	Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class	\$66,666	\$38,170	\$28,496

Private Placements & Reimbursement

Private Facility and Excess Cost Child Count vs Reimbursement



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Special Education

Private Placements & Equalization

Why should the state of Illinois reimburse school districts at a higher rate for students placed in a more restrictive placement than for students placed in a less restrictive placement receiving the same services?

Illinois should reimburse school districts at the same rate, especially for the students with the greatest needs, regardless of placement.

Meet W.T.



Program: Public Therapeutic Day School

Services Include:

- 1-1 Aide
- Special Transportation
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech-Language
- Adapted Physical Education
- Health Services
- Assistive Technology
- Transition Services



Excess Cost

Funding Source: Excess Cost Reimbursement (which is defined as educational costs in excess of **four** district per capita tuition charges) funded from unused Federal IDEA Room and Board Funds

Funding level proration:

- FY16 - 39.5%
- FY15 - 0%
- FY14 - 0%
- FY13 - 0%
- FY12 - 2.30%
- FY11 - 8.87%
- FY10 - 8.13%

Private Tuition

Funding Source: Private Tuition (which is in most cases reimburses educational costs in excess of **two** district per capita tuition charges). Private tuition has its own funding source.

Funding level proration:

- FY16 - 94%
- FY15 - 94%
- FY14 - 94%
- FY13 - 92%
- FY12 - 87%
- FY11 - 100%
- FY10 - 99%

Actual Public Therapeutic Day School

2015/2016

- Education cost: \$81,596
- State Reimbursement: \$15,008
- **Prorated Reimbursement: \$5,928**
- Education Cost to District: \$75,668

2014/2015

- Education cost: \$74,826
- **State Reimbursement: \$0**
- Education Cost to District: \$74,826

Example Private Day School Placement

2015/2016

- Education cost: \$94,518
- State Reimbursement: \$61,224
- **Prorated Reimbursement: \$57,551**
- Education Cost to District: \$36,967

2014/2015

- Education cost: \$98,627
- State Reimbursement: \$65,947
- **Prorated Reimbursement: \$61,990**
- Education Cost to District: \$36,637

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Summary

Special education funding reform needs to be effective, efficient, flexible and equitable. There needs to be funding assurances that learners with the greatest challenges will have their educational needs met.

Special education programming, services and funding for Districts, Special Education Cooperatives and Private Schools needs to continue evolving to reflect progressive educational changes. Leaders and stakeholders need to work collaboratively on behalf of students with exceptional needs.