

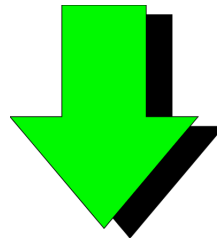
Senate Majority Policy Committee Hearing on Special Education

Cost Drivers and Funding Challenges

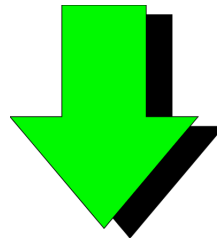
Mark D. DiRocco, Ph.D., Superintendent
Lewisburg Area School District
January 23, 2013

RESPONSIBILITY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Part 300
Individuals with Disabilities Education and
Federal Regulations**



**Chapter 14 Special Education Services and Programs
State Regulations**



Local Implementation

LASD Special Education Expenses

	2011-2012
Total Special Ed. Cost	\$2,967,527
Federal Effort (IDEA-B & Title II)	\$426,039
State Effort	\$1,011,690
Local Effort	\$1,529,798

Special Education was taken off formula in 1993-1994. Prior to that, most of the cost of special education was reimbursed to local school districts. Today, approximately 50% is reimbursed to school districts.

Ten Year History of State Funding to Lewisburg for Special Education

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Allocation	\$916,610.00	\$934,925.00	\$953,624.00	\$972,696.00	\$993,627.00
\$ Increase	\$23,075.00	\$18,315.00	\$18,699.00	\$19,072.00	\$20,931.00
% Increase	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%
Year	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Allocation	\$1,016,433.00	\$1,016,849.00	\$1,006,532.00	\$1,011,690.00	\$1,011,690.00
\$ Increase	\$22,806.00	\$416.00	\$(10,317.00)	\$5,158.00	\$0
% Increase	2.3%	0.0%	-1.0%	0.5%	0.0%

Child Find

- School Districts must find every special education child within their population. Failure to do so can result in Compensatory Education Settlements.
- Instructional Support Teams (IST) and Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII) must be used cautiously to avoid delaying the Child Find Process.

	2003-2004	2012-2013
District Enrollment	1,770	1,891
Special Education Enrollment	130	225
Percent of Enrollment	7.3%	11.9%
Special Ed. Teachers	9	12
Special Ed. Aides	20	30

Supplemental Aides and Services to Keep Special Needs Children in the Regular School Programs

“Gaskin Settlement”

LASD Students by Primary Disability	
Autism	22
Emotional Disturbance	19
Intellectual Disability	9
Specific Learning Disability	106
Speech and Language Impairment	31
Other Health Impaired	35
Multiple Disabilities	3
Total	225

- Individual Aides
- Social Work Services
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Special Transportation

Out of District Placements

Difficulty of locating services in a rural area.

- LASD Averaged 23 Out-Of-District Placements in 2011-2012 at a cost of \$411,000 or \$17,869 per student
- LASD currently has 29 students placed Out-Of-District
- New Story Program (Private Provider) - \$150.00 – \$210.00 + per day
- Five Star Program (CSIU) - \$178.14 – \$218.03 per day

State Regulations “*Notwithstanding*” or “*In Addition To*” Federal Regulations

PA Regulation	Description
14.104 Personnel	Paraprofessionals must be highly qualified and receive 20 hours of training per year.
14.104 Personnel	Maximum student caseloads are mandated.
14.121 Child Find	Each school district must adopt a public outreach awareness system.
14.131 IEP	A person must be designated to coordinate transition activities and transition services begin at age 14 in PA as opposed to age 16 in the federal regulations.
14.133 Positive Behavior Support	More comprehensive supports are required in PA
14.321 ESY	Establishes standards for Extended School Year Services.