Educational Funding – Special Education
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
Educational Funding – Special Education

Special Education Data

During past 10 years approximately 290,000 – 326,000 students per year receiving 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
Educational Funding – Special Education

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

Local Sources 74%

IDEA Grant 7%

Private Facility Tuition Reimbursement 2%

Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services 6%

Personnel Reimbursement 8%

Orphanage 2%

Summer School 0%

IDEA Room & Board 1%
Pontiac High School District 90

- Local Sources: 82%
- Personnel Reimbursement: 11%
- Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services: 5%
- Private Facility Tuition Reimbursement: 2%
Westchester School District 92.5

Local Sources 60%

IDEA Grant 1%

Private Facility Tuition Reimbursement 12%

Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services 13%

Personnel Reimbursement 8%

Orphanage 6%

Summer School 0%
Taylorville CUSD 3

- IDEA Grant: 4%
- Private Facility Tuition Reimbursement: 19%
- Local Sources: 24%
- Orphanage: 5%
- Personnel Reimbursement: 26%
- Funding for Children Requiring Special Education Services: 22%
- Summer School: 0%
## Educational Funding – Special Education

### Funding from Federal Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Flow Through</th>
<th>Pre-School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>$514,696,307</td>
<td>$17,118,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY15</td>
<td>$500,249,065</td>
<td>$16,488,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY14</td>
<td>$499,269,921</td>
<td>$16,488,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY13</td>
<td>$479,681,039</td>
<td>$16,488,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY12</td>
<td>$505,828,941</td>
<td>$17,308,047</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY11</td>
<td>$501,248,821</td>
<td>$17,337,847</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
Educational Funding – Special Education

Special Education Continuum of Placements

- 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

Less Restrictive

More Restrictive
Educational Funding – Special Education

Private Placements & Equalization

- Programming & Services have evolved
- Reimbursement system has not evolved
- Reimbursement system disincentive for LRE
Educational Funding – Special Education

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.
## Educational Funding – Special Education

### Private Placements & Equalization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Placement</th>
<th>Services Included</th>
<th>Education Cost for Student</th>
<th>State Reimbursement to District</th>
<th>Net Cost to District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Home School</strong></td>
<td>Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class</td>
<td>$58,532</td>
<td>$31</td>
<td>$58,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Separate School</strong></td>
<td>Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class</td>
<td>$61,068</td>
<td>$82</td>
<td>$60,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private School</strong></td>
<td>Speech/language; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Adapted PE; Health; Assistive Device; Transportation; Aide in Class</td>
<td>$66,666</td>
<td>$38,170</td>
<td>$28,496</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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 need to continue evolving to reflect progressive educational changes. Leaders and stakeholders need to work collaboratively on behalf of students with exceptional needs.