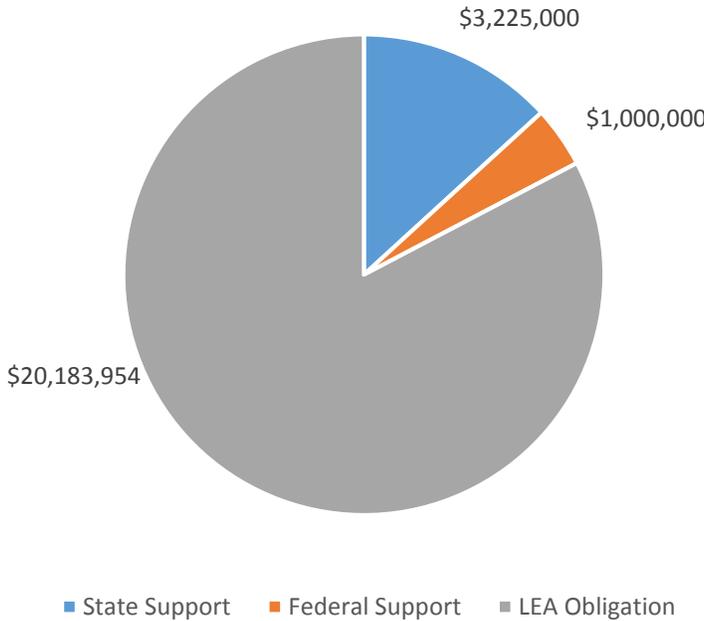


# Special Education Intensive Services Fund

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that school districts and charter schools provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to every child with a disability. These educational services are provided to students based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which must be developed by parents and school teams without regard for the cost of services.

2014-2015 Sources of Intensive Services Funding



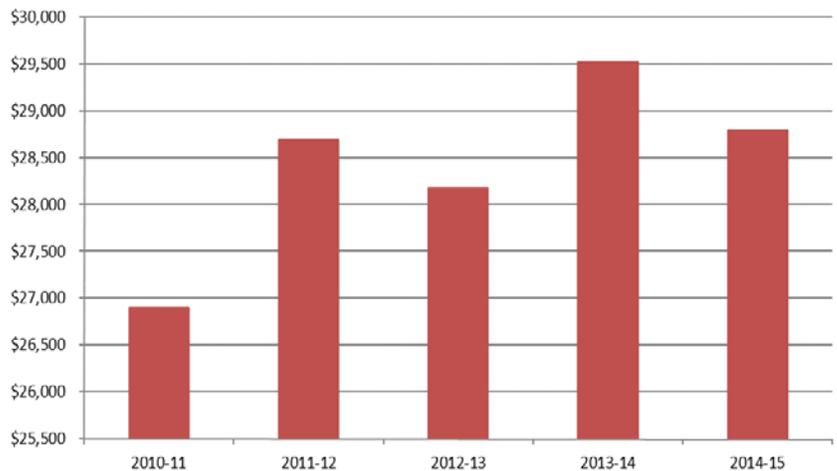
Special education services may include services such as one-on-one nursing, highly specialized technology, physical therapy, sign language interpreting, individual paraprofessional support, extremely low student-to-teacher ratios, and other services that are required for the student to benefit from special education and prepare for college, career, and independent living. **Less than 1% of students require this high level of intensity.**

With an increased focus on setting high expectations for student achievement, the need to improve results for students with disabilities has never been greater. However, the state investment that helps school districts and charter schools to achieve improvement has not kept pace with the demand, especially for students who require intensive services.

Thirty-two states, including Utah, have a fund designed to cover all or some of the costs of students who require intensive services. Utah Code 53A-17a-112 allows funding for Special Education—State Programming, which includes \$3,225,000 for students whose special education services cost more than three times the state average. The USOE provides another \$1,000,000 in IDEA funding each year. **In 2014-2015, LEAs spent \$25,550,027 to provide required intensive services for students. The increase in state support provided during the 2015 Legislative Session had a significant impact on student services, by meeting 55% of the need compared with approximately 15% for the several previous years.**

It is critical that the state’s investment in special education keep pace with rising costs. In addition, the state’s commitment to support school districts and charter schools in creating quality programs for students with intensive needs is essential.

Per Student Average Cost



## Special Education Intensive Services Fund

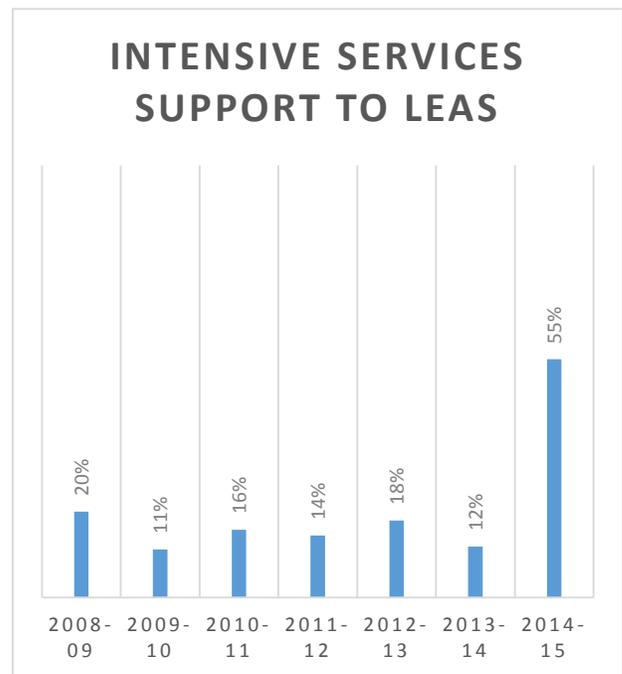
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that school districts and charter schools provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to every child with a disability. These educational services are provided to students based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which must be developed by parents and school teams without regard for the cost of services. Intensive services required for the student to benefit from special education and prepare for college, career, and independent living may include:

- one-on-one nursing \$95,000 per year, per child
- highly specialized technology \$5,000–\$20,000 per device
- sign language interpreting \$65,000 per year, per child
- individual paraprofessional support \$46,000 per year, per child

In 2014-2015 LEAs spent **\$25,550,027** to provide these required intensive services for students.

- Special Education WPU: \$5,939,934
- Medicaid reimbursement: \$2,141,073
- State Intensive Services: \$3,225,000
- Federal Intensive Services: \$1,000,000
- **Gap: \$13,244,020**

Thanks to a generous increase in state support provided during the 2015 session, the Intensive Services Fund met 55% of the gap compared with approximately 15% for the several previous years.



**Support Utah students with complex disabilities by supporting the Utah State Board of Education priority request of \$10,000,000 for the Intensive Services Fund!**