

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE AID WEIGHTING (KSA 72-5157)



The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to provide special education services to children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21. This includes children with developmental delays, hearing or visual impairments, emotional disturbances, or autism. IDEA requires each special education student to receive an individualized education plan (IEP) that identifies the services to be provided to the student. In Kansas, the Special Education for Exceptional Children Act (SEECA), which was enacted in 1974, generally mirrors the federal law, but it imposes several additional special education requirements on school districts. These include:

- Identifying and providing services to gifted students;
- Using interventions in the regular education classroom before referring a student to special education; and
- Providing special education services to children who reside in the district but attend a private school.

At the time of the school finance amendments made by the 2017 Legislature, state law provided for state aid in the form of reimbursement for the excess costs associated with provided special education services. The reimbursement rate was set at 92.0 percent of excess costs, but state law also provided for prorating state aid if the appropriation for Special Education State Aid does not equal 92.0 percent of excess costs. State law also provided for reimbursement of specific types of expenditures (described below). Any excess costs associated with other expenditures could not be reimbursed. The statutes and the annual budget bill required Special Education State Aid to be distributed in a specific order, as follows:

- Medicaid replacement state aid; (KSA 72-3440)
 - School districts receive this aid based on the number of Medicaid-enrolled students who receive special education services in the district on March 1;
- Catastrophic state aid; (KSA 72-3425)
 - School districts may apply for additional funding for a student whose services cost more than twice the categorical aid per FTE special education teacher from the previous year and receive reimbursement for 75.0 percent of the costs above that threshold;
- Transportation aid; (KSA 72-3422)
 - School districts are reimbursed for 80.0 percent of transportation costs for special education; and
- Special education teacher aid; (KSA 72-3422)
 - School districts receive funding based on district total special education teacher and paraprofessional FTE staffing levels. Paraprofessionals are counted as 0.4 FTE. A special education teacher at the Kansas State School for the Blind or Kansas State School for the Deaf, if paid for by a school district, considered a special education teacher of the school district for the purpose of determining the amount of Special Education State Aid a district is to receive for special education teachers.



School districts who are part of a special education interlocal or cooperative can receive Special Education State Aid reimbursement. The Special Education State Aid amount a member district can receive is based upon their local contribution amount to the interlocal or cooperative and the amount of Special Education State Aid the interlocal or cooperative is entitled. If a member district paid 20.0 percent of the costs for the interlocal or cooperative to provide special education services, then the amount of Special Education State Aid received would equal 20.0 percent of the amount of state aid entitlement of the interlocal or cooperative.

No amendments have been made to the statutes governing Special Education State Aid since 2017.

The special education and related services weighting of each school district is determined by the amount of special education payments received by the school district and divided by the BASE aid.

Year	Special Education Categorical Aid
2022-2023	pending
2021-2022	pending
2020-2021	29,510 Est.
2019-2020	30,010
2018-2019	30,085
2017-2018	28,010
2016-2017	27,750
2015-2016	27,955
2014-2015	27,520
2013-2014	27,900
2012-2013	28,275
2011-2012	28,895
2010-2011	26,515
2009-2010	24,780
2008-2009	28,760

Year	Special Education Categorical Aid
2006-2007	24,275
2005-2006	21,600
2004-2005	18,770
2003-2004	19,420
2002-2003	19,715
2001-2002	19,625
2000-2001	20,800
1999-2000	19,700
1998-1999	19,815
1997-1998	19,245
1996-1997	19,170
1995-1996	19,825
1994-1995	19,675
1993-1994	
1992-1993	

For more information, contact:
 Dale Brungardt
 School Finance
 (785) 296-3872

Frank Harwood
 Deputy Commissioner
 (785) 296-3871
fharwood@ksde.org



Kansas State Department of Education
 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

(785) 296-3201

www.ksde.org

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