

40%
BY 2040

40 by 40

Fulfill the IDEA Promise

A national coalition of state school boards associations fulfilling Congress's 50-year-old funding promise.

Educate your school community and activate their support!



A Promise Made in 1975

In 1975, Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), guaranteeing every student with a disability a free, appropriate education. Congress committed to fund 40% of the cost of that mandate. The actual federal share today is only 10%.

How School Boards Can Engage

1

September - October

Learn the Facts about IDEA in Your District

What percent of special needs services is covered by federal funding in your district?

2

November - February

Pass the 40 by 40 Resolution of Support

Refer to IASB's draft resolution for passage at your board meeting. (See reverse side.)

STUDENTS SERVED
UNDER IDEA:

3.7M

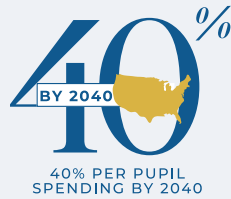
in 1976-77, the first year

8.3M

projected in 2027

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education;
FY2027 Budget Request

**Students with disabilities cannot wait another 50 years.
Let's finish the job Congress started in 1975.**



Sample Resolution in Support of 40 by 40: Fulfill the IDEA Promise

**Resolution Urging Congress to Fulfill Its Promise to
Fund 40 Percent of IDEA Costs**

A Resolution of the [Insert School District Name] School Board Urging the United States Congress to Fulfill Its Longstanding Commitment to Fund 40 Percent of Special Education Costs Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975 to ensure that students with disabilities receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE); and

WHEREAS, Congress made a clear commitment in IDEA to fund 40 percent of the cost to educate students to help cover the excess costs of providing special education services; and

WHEREAS, despite this longstanding promise, federal IDEA funding has consistently fallen far short — in 2027 providing just 10 percent of the cost nationally — leaving the State of Illinois, local school districts, and taxpayers to subsidize the federal government’s unmet obligation; and

WHEREAS students covered by IDEA have grown exponentially from 3.7 million in 1975 to 8.3 million students today; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Illinois school districts collectively face a federal special education shortfall exceeding \$1.4 billion annually, requiring local districts to redirect general education revenues to meet mandated special education needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal funding shortfall places significant and increasing pressure on local budgets, widens funding imbalances among school districts, undermines general education programs, and forces reductions in staffing, class size initiatives, mental health supports, and other essential student services; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling the federal promise of 40 percent IDEA funding would provide substantial relief to Illinois school districts, reduce reliance on local levies, stabilize district budgets, and strengthen educational outcomes for all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of [Insert School District Name] hereby urges the United States Congress to:

1. Fulfill its statutory commitment to fund 40 percent of IDEA special education costs by supporting annual increases that result in 40 percent by the year 2040;
2. Ensure IDEA funding remains stable and protected from across-the-board cuts.
3. Publicly reaffirm the federal government’s responsibility to fully fund (40%) mandated special education services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Superintendent are directed to share this resolution with ...

Complete board resolution template available from IASB.