

# THE COST OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN KANSAS

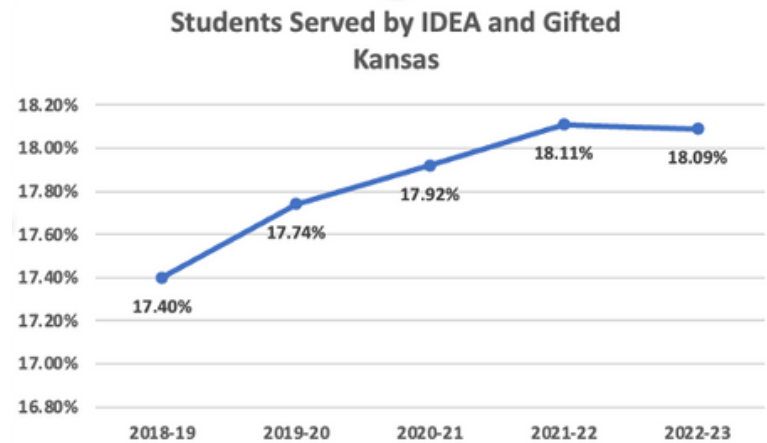
## SPECIAL EDUCATION IS:

- Federally mandated under IDEA for students with disabilities and includes Gifted in Kansas
- Specially designed instruction and related services to meet IEP goals in the student's Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Due process protecting student rights to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for children ages 3-21 according to an Individualized Education Program (IEP)

## SPECIAL EDUCATION IS NOT:

- At-Risk
- ADA/Section 504

- Kansas statute mandates 92% of the state's special education excess cost to be fully funded per state statute, K.S.A. 72-3422. The last year special education was fully funded was in 2010
- The state's special education excess cost has averaged around 75% over the last 5 years. For 2023-24, funding is estimated at 69%
- The State of Kansas estimates a surplus of \$2.8 billion by July 2024 in addition to \$1.7 billion in the State's General Stabilization Fund
- In October 2023, the Kansas Legislative Post Audit estimated it would cost between \$1.2 and \$1.5 billion annually to provide special education services that would allow students to meet their IEP goals

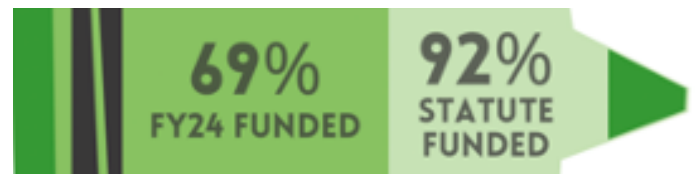


## KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION FACTS

- In the 2021-22 school year, in addition to general education costs, school districts spent \$1.2 billion to provide special education services mandated in each student's IEP.
- In a 2023 Kansas Legislative Post Audit (KLPA) report, the KLPA found that spending has an impact on student outcomes with a correlation of 83% or a near one-to-one relationship. This is consistent with prior studies directed by the Kansas Legislature.
- Present challenges in delivering special rising costs for specialized services, unfilled staff positions, addressing students' mental and behavioral health needs, and attending to the well-being of staff.



## KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING



KSDE estimates special education is currently underfunded by **\$173 million**. KASEA supports the recommendation of the Kansas State Board of Education to fully fund special education with a phased-in plan.

## KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION EXCESS COST FUNDING HISTORY

YEAR	FUNDING LEVEL	PERCENT OF EXCESS COST
2018-19	\$490,380,818	81.40%
2019-20	\$497,894,780	75.30%
2020-21	\$505,566,465	73.40%
2021-22	\$513,030,935	76.40%
2022-23	\$520,519,379	76.80%
2023-24	\$528,160,830	69.00%
2024-25 (est.)	\$535,518,818	66.00%

**\*Bullets 1-2: Kansas Legislative Post Audit Report, Estimating the Cost of K-12 Education, October 2023**

Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators  
December 2023