
Education of Children with Disabilities



Key Takeaways

- Support for children with disabilities is calculated on basis of specific funded headcount, regardless of the severity of a student's disability
- State funding supplements federal “IDEA” monies and other State resources that children with disabilities generate through basic allotments
- These resources are used to provide a supplemental program of support that meets the educational and service needs of eligible students

Purpose

- Support for LEAs to fulfill statutory requirement (G.S. 115C-106.1) to “...provide full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities...”
- Fund local programs that emphasize special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living

Eligibility

- All LEAs are eligible
- LEAs failing to comply with federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and/or State requirements may have funding reduced

Allotment Formula--Part 1

- Funding for Children with Disabilities (ages 5-20) is computed using two components:
 1. Number of Eligible Children with Disabilities
 - Eligibility defined by State Board of Education
 - April 1 count of students used for upcoming fiscal year
 - Select the **lesser** of the April 1 count or an overall 12.5 percent cap on Allotted ADM
 2. Funding Factor- Dollars per eligible funded headcount
 - Set through appropriations process
- Multiply (1) and (2) for a final allotment amount

Allotment Formula—Part 2

- Allotment also includes support for Preschool Handicapped State Funding (ages 3,4 and pre-K5)
 1. Base Funding
 - Every LEA receives amount equal to the average salary of a classroom teacher plus benefits
 2. Additional Funding
 - Distributed to LEA based on April 1 child count
- LEAs are also reimbursed for the educational cost of children with disabilities assigned to group homes, foster homes or similar facilities

Formula—2007-08 Example

School-Age Children with Disabilities Funding

April 1, 2007 Headcount (conducted by LEA)	2,897
--	-------

Total ADM	22,928
-----------	--------

12.5% of ADM (statutory cap)	2,866
------------------------------	-------

LEA Headcount is greater than 12.5% cap, so use 2,866 as funded headcount.

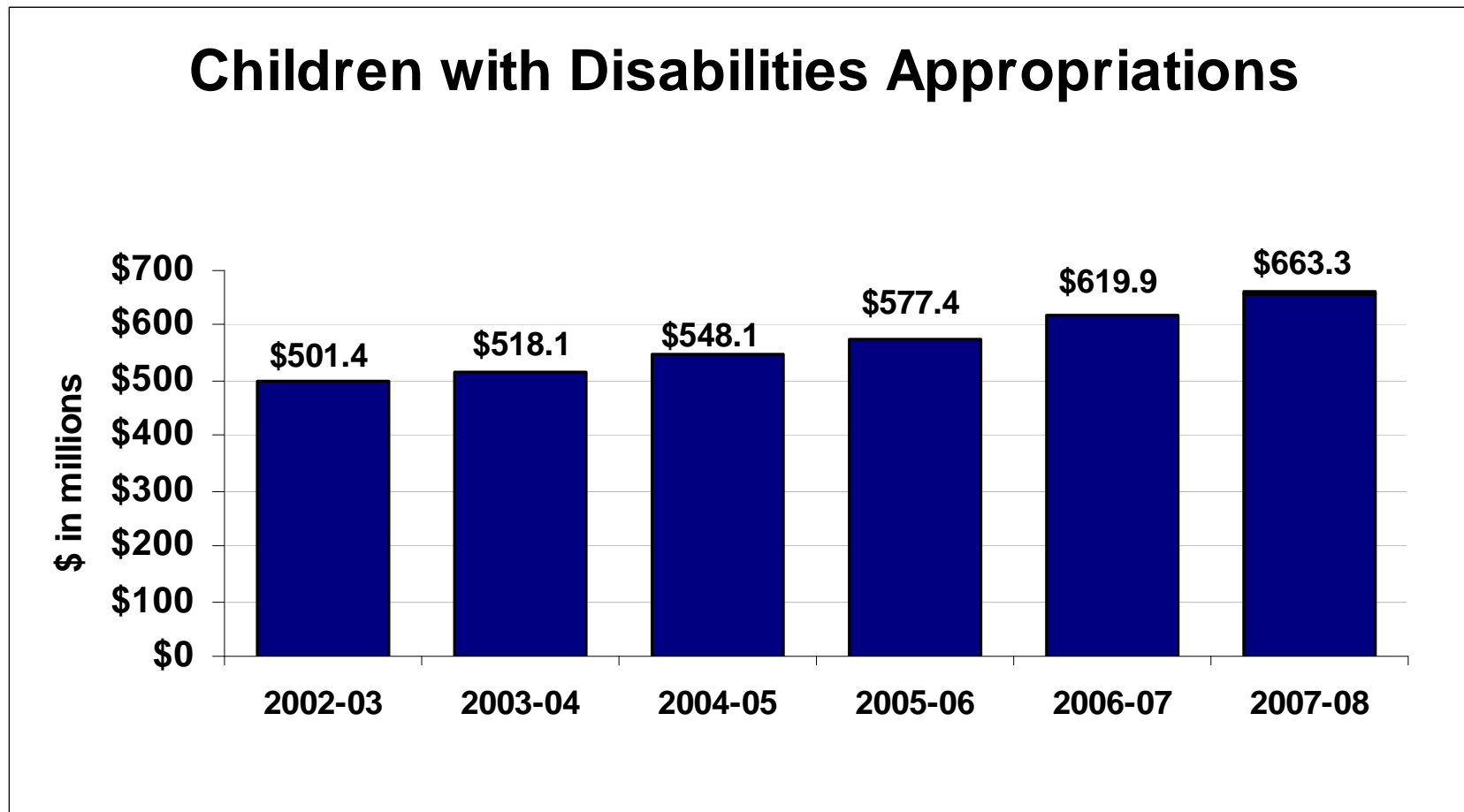
Funding Factor set by General Assembly with adjustment for Legislative Increase	\$3,348.47
--	------------

Multiply funded headcount by funding factor for final total allotment to LEA	\$9,596,708
---	-------------

Allotment Formula-Other Issues

- Program funds supplement other basic allotments
- Benefits for personnel supported with this allotment are included
- Funds may only be used to transport preschool pupils and not school age children
- DPI Reserve compensates LEAs for costs associated with severely disabled students, high population growth and other issues

Funding History



2007-08 Appropriations

Children with Disabilities Appropriations

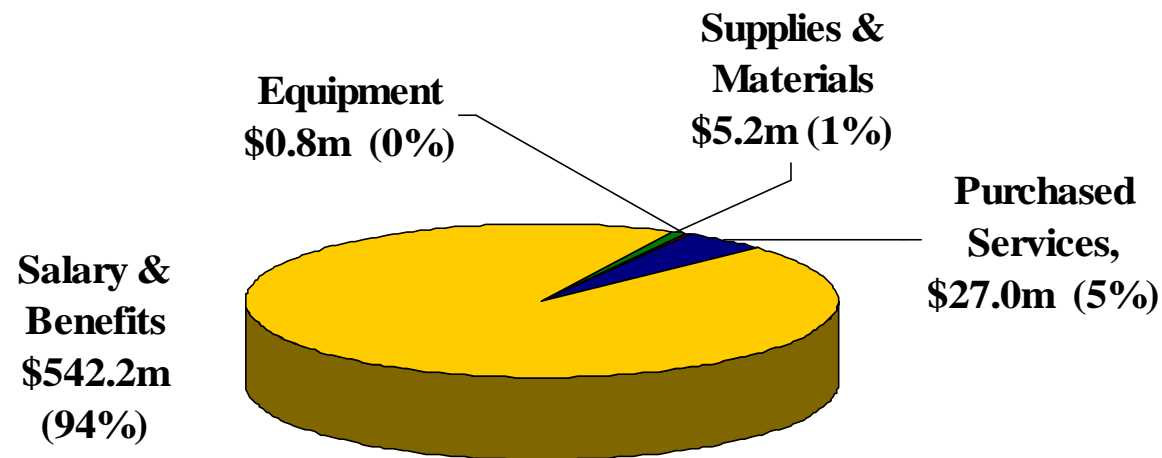
School-age Children (5-20)	\$578.1 m
Preschool Children	\$47.9 m
Behavioral Support	\$10.3 m
Group Homes	\$4.8 m
Developmental Day Care	\$16.9 m
Community Residency Centers	\$5.4 m
Total	\$663.4 m

Expenditures

- Costs of services for different student populations are variable
 - 2003 national study found that the actual expenditure for educating a “Learning Disabled” student is nearly half that of an “Educable Mentally Disabled” student
- However, all eligible students generate the same level of funding in allotment formula, regardless of expenditure per student
 - No consensus on true cost for successfully educating every classification of eligible student

Actual 2006-07 Expenditures

Children with Disabilities



Questions for Consideration

- 12.5% Cap
 - Unmet need?
 - Appropriate expenditure level?
 - Incentivize overidentification?
- No differentiation between disability levels
 - Per pupil amount in allotment formula not coupled with severity of disability
 - Are DPI reserves for this issue sufficient?

Key Takeaways

- Support for children with disabilities is calculated on basis of specific funded headcount, regardless of the severity of a student's disability
- State funding supplements federal “IDEA” monies and other State resources that children with disabilities generate through basic allotments
- These resources are used to provide a supplemental program of support that meets the educational and service needs of eligible students