


# Unlock K-12 Special Education Grants

Expert Tips to Secure Funding for Inclusive Education

# Today's Presenters



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# TODAY'S AGENDA

01 | Historical Context

02 | Sources of Grant Funding

03 | Grant Readiness Tips

04 | Looking Ahead

05 | Questions?



# Federal Laws Protecting Students with Disabilities

### Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Requires that schools not discriminate against children with disabilities and provide them with reasonable accommodation

### The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (1975)

Governs all special education services for children in the United States

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (1990)

Children who qualify cannot be denied educational services, programs or activities and it prohibits discrimination against all such students

# Sources of Grant Funding

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



**Formula (IDEA Part B & C)**

Allocated to SEAs based on the amount of IDEA funding they received in FY 1999.

**Discretionary (IDEA Part D)**

Awarded through a competitive process to SEAs, IHEs, and other nonprofit organizations.



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# Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities Programs



## Description

The Educational Technology, Media, and Materials program is the primary source of support for accessible technology and media-related activities under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (*IDEA*). The program supports two broad categories of activities — accessible technology and educational media and materials.

**Funding Amount**

Varies by Program

**Deadline**

Varies by Program

**Eligibility Notes**

Varies but includes Non-Profit Organizations, Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), State Educational Agencies (SEAs), Freely Associated States and Outlying Areas, Other Public Agencies

# Education Innovation and Research Program: Early Phase



## Description

Provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for **high-need students**; and rigorously evaluate such innovations.

Examples of high-need students might include, among others, students at risk of educational failure or otherwise in need of special assistance or support, such as children and students who are living in poverty, who are homeless, who have been incarcerated, or who **have disabilities.**

**Funding Amount**

$251,000,000

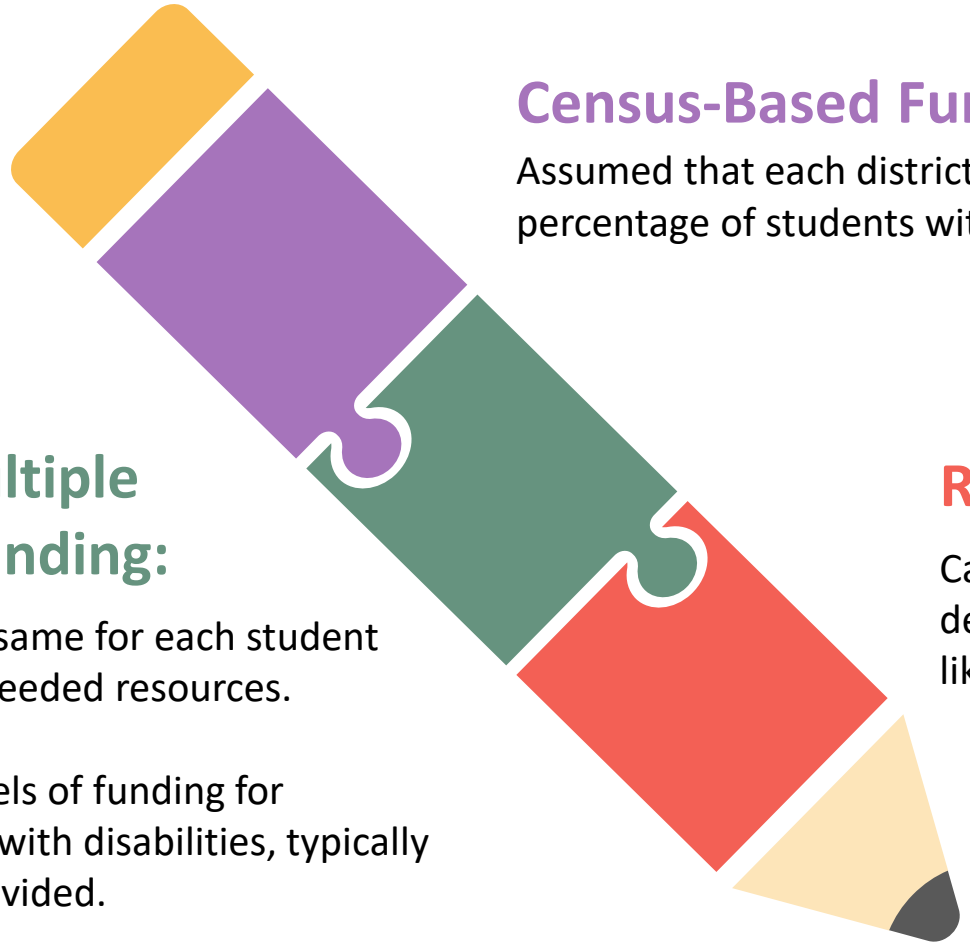
**Deadline**

Anticipated July 2025

**Eligibility Notes**

Local Education Agencies (including a public charter school that operates as an LEA); State educational agencies (SEA); The Bureau of Indian Education; A consortium of SEAs or LEAs; A nonprofit organization; and an LEA, an SEA, the BIE, or a consortium described in clause (d), in partnership with a nonprofit organization; a business; an educational service agency; or an institution of higher education.

# State Funding Models



## Census-Based Funding:

Assumed that each district has the same percentage of students with disabilities.

## Single Student or Multiple Student Weighted Funding:

Single- Funding is weighted the same for each student regardless of disability type or needed resources.

Multiple- Provides different levels of funding for different categories of students with disabilities, typically by disability type or services provided.

## Resource-Based Funding:

Calculated based on the cost of delivering special services in a district, like staff salaries or course materials.

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# Example of Special Education Services in Schools

## Push-in Services

Instructional support, differentiated instruction, or related services are provided in the classroom.

## Push- Out Services

Services are provided outside the general classroom to work one-on-one or in a small group setting with speech-language therapist, occupational therapist or another specialist.

## Inclusive Classrooms

Classrooms will have a mix of children of varying abilities and co-teachers within the room that allows those who have special needs to get the additional help they require while remaining in a traditional classroom setting

## Exclusive Education

Provide specialized instruction for students with disabilities, often in smaller groups or individual settings, to meet their unique learning needs

# Private Funding Sources

RUDERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
Changes for the Better

RURAL technology fund

LDA
Learning Disabilities Association of America

Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism

CHARLES LAFITTE™ FOUNDATION

# Grant Readiness Tips

# Understand Funder Priorities

- Research and Innovation
- Inclusive and Accessible Education Materials
- Transitioning into Adulthood
- Teacher Professional Development

# Identifying the Right Grant Program

## 01 Project areas

e.g. research, accessibility, professional development.

## 02 Target population to be served

e.g. children or adults with disabilities.

## 03 Geographic focus

Make sure the grant maker will fund projects in your area. Some programs fund nationally, while others will only fund in certain states/regions.

## 04 Types of support provided

e.g. equipment or supplies, curriculum development, capital improvements, operational funds, technical assistance, etc.

## 05 Do we share any common partners?

There may be existing relationships that you can leverage.



# Tips for Getting Your Classroom Project "Grant Ready"

1. Identify your classroom needs
2. Outline your teaching plan
3. Document your student learning goals
4. Confirm your required resources
5. Focus on the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
6. Select grants aligning with educational priorities



# Tips for Getting Your School "Grant Ready"

1. Seek approval from leadership
2. Connect with fellow educators
3. Confirm needed accounts/registrations are active
4. Plan your classroom project in advance
5. Actively search for teacher-friendly grants
6. Build relationships with local partners





# Steps for Success

## 01 Project Plan

Draft of need, plan, goals, etc. **Start today!**

## 02 Identify the Grant(s)

What grant(s) align with project and your organization?

## 03 Finalize Project Plan

Solidify partnerships, determine project details & alignment with grant requirements.

## 04 Develop the Application

Put all information in a compliant format. Answer all the questions!

## 05 Submit your Application

Celebrate the journey!

# Looking Ahead: FY 2026 Federal Funding for Special Education

# FY26 Discretionary Budget Request

## The Special Education Simplified Funding Program

Aims to consolidate the seven Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs to provide States and school districts greater flexibility to support students with special education needs, maintaining funding at the 2025 level.

## DISCRETIONARY FUNDING REQUEST

**Make America Healthy Again (MAHA).** The discretionary Budget request builds on the President's MAHA Commission. The Budget provides resources to the Department of Health and Human Services that would allow the Secretary to tackle issues related to nutrition, physical activity, healthy lifestyles, over-reliance on medication and treatments, the effects of new technological habits, environmental impacts, and food and drug quality and safety. The Budget supports the creation of MAHA food boxes that would be filled with commodities sourced from domestic farmers and given directly to American households. The Budget also includes resources to ensure food safety nationwide, including support for increased production and demand for services.

**Support Our Veterans.** The Budget provides increased funding for healthcare services tailored to U.S. veterans' needs, both at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and in the community. Combined with $50 billion in mandatory funding from the Toxic Exposures Fund, the Budget ensures that the Nation's veterans are provided with the world-class healthcare that they deserve. In addition, veterans who qualify for access to care with local community providers would be empowered to make the choice to see them, rather than having to drive, in some cases, hours to access the nearest VA facility.

**Preserve Social Security.** The Budget supports the President's promise to not touch Social Security benefits. The Budget also includes sufficient resources for the Social Security Administration (SSA) to improve customer service by expanding and improving online services, and reducing customer wait times in field offices and on the phone. The Budget also includes investments in program integrity, to reduce fraud and abuse in Social Security programs, and in investments in artificial intelligence to increase employee productivity and automate routine workloads. These efforts would help ensure that SSA delivers timely and accurate Social Security services to the public.

**Streamline K-12 Education Funding and Promote Parental Choice.** The Budget continues the process of shutting down the Department of Education. The Budget maintains full funding for Title I, which provides Federal financial assistance to school districts for children from low-income families, and special education funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). To limit the Federal role in education, and provide States with more flexibility, the Budget creates a new K-12 Simplified Funding Program that consolidates 18 competitive and formula grant programs into a new formula grant, and a Special Education Simplified Funding Program that consolidates seven IDEA programs into a single grant. The Budget also invests $500 million, a $60 million increase, to expand the number of high-quality charter schools, which have a proven track record of improving students' academic achievement and giving parents more choice in the education of their children.

**Make America Skilled Again (MASA).** The Budget proposes to give States and localities the flexibility to spend Federal workforce dollars to best support their workers and economies, instead of funneling taxpayer dollars to progressive non-profits finding work for illegal immigrants or focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Under this proposal, States would now have more control and flexibility to coordinate with employers

# Questions?

# Engage with Grants Office

## Step 1

### ‘Contact Us’

Fill out an Information Collection Tool to engage with the Grants Office Helpdesk.

## Step 2

### Initial Meeting

Meet with a Grants Office Consultant to discuss your project goals and technology needs.

## Step 3

### Funding Opportunity Report

Your Grants Office Consultant will provide you with a report detailing applicable grants.

## Step 4

### Consultative Call

Meet with your Grants Office Consultant to plan and prepare your application.

## Step 5

### Submit Application

Once completed, you submit your grant application and let us know when you win!

*Start here!*

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# FREE RESOURCES:
# Unlock the U.S. Federal Budget

Congress recently passed a Continuing Budget Resolution that funds the government through the rest of FY2025.

Watch our comprehensive overview of the US federal budget (Episode 3), recent trends, and how it impacts funding opportunities across various sectors! Learn how the government allocates its resources, key priorities in the annual budget, and what this means for funding programs in areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and more.

Episodes 1-3 of our *Making Sense of Recent Executive Orders and their Impact on Federal Grant Funding* series are available now:
https://www2.grantsoffice.com/State_of_Federal_Funding

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