

Guide to Using IDEA Funding for Special Education



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that lays out federal funding for students with disabilities. In this guide, we'll walk you through the details of IDEA funds, how your school can use them, and why Progress Learning might be the right choice for you.

Overview of IDEA Funds

On November 29, 1975, President Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. Today this landmark law is known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It ensures states and public agencies provide free public education, special education, and early intervention to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

The act is broken up into 3 parts: Part A, B, and C. IDEA Part A is largely administrative and outlines the foundation of the act. IDEA Part B is arguably the most important and mandates that children and youth with disabilities, ages 3–21, are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). It also ensures they receive the special education and related services they need. Finally, IDEA Part C provides infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages 0–2, as well as their families with access to early intervention services.

How can my school use these funds?

- Providing special education services and support to students with disabilities
- Conducting evaluations and assessments for eligibility determinations and ongoing progress monitoring
- Developing individualized education plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities
- Providing assistive technology, specialized equipment, and other accommodations to help students access the curriculum
- Supporting students with disabilities in inclusive classroom settings alongside their non-disabled peers
- Hiring and training special education teachers, aides, and other professionals
- Offering professional development opportunities to all staff members to enhance their ability to work with students with disabilities
- Acquiring and maintaining facilities that are accessible and accommodating for students with disabilities

How are funds distributed?

The federal government provides IDEA funds to states, which then distribute them to districts. Until the 2005-06 school year, IDEA Part B funding was based on the number of special education students within a state. However, the formula has since changed to include census data to prevent the over-identification of students with disabilities.

Can IDEA Funding be used for Progress Learning?

Yes! Progress Learning has been shown to meet ESSA requirements, which means schools are able to use their IDEA and Title 1 funding on our program.



Special Education Support with Progress Learning

Progress Learning is dedicated to ensuring each student receives a fair and equitable education.



Special Needs Accommodations

We offer a plethora of [built-in accessibility tools](#) and assistive technology to ensure all students can easily access their curriculum and learn at their own pace.



Personalized Education Plans

We can help teachers and students develop and implement [Individualized Education Plans \(IEPs\)](#) that cater to each student's unique needs and goals.



Comprehensive Resources

We serve all students (struggling, bubble, on-level, and advanced) at all stages of their learning journey with content that is 100% standards-aligned.



Progress Monitoring

Our easy-to-understand data is immediately actionable and shows school, classroom, and individual student learning down to the exact domain and standard.



Teaching Tools for All Learning Levels

We save teachers time with pre-built or build-your-own assessments, automatic grading, and built-in remediation plans. Our platform may be used as a stand-alone or supplemental resource and includes printables, videos, benchmarks, quizzes, assignments, bell ringers, and more!