More than 106,000 of Colorado’s students received special education services in 2019-20. That means about 12% of Colorado’s students were eligible for special education services. Nationally about 14% of students are eligible for these services. (National Center of Education Statistics, The Condition of Education, May 2020)

The chart below illustrates that state-level funding for the two tiers (A & B) of special education students in Colorado has essentially remained flat from 2014 to 2019. This despite the increase in the students qualifying for these services. This funding covers approximately $.30 on each $1.00 spent; therefore, school districts must pick up the remaining costs from their general fund.