

**Consortium of Directors of Special Education
Overview of Possible Special Education Funding Scenarios
Based on December 2018 Pupil Count**

General Data		
Tier B Pupil Count <i>*without state operated programs</i>	22,863	<i>(Increase of 638 students over 2017 count)</i>
All Other Disabilities Count <i>*without state operated programs</i>	81,588	<i>(Increase of 2,216 students over 2017 count)</i>
Total 2018 Pupil Count (Tier A) <i>*without state operated programs</i>	104,451	<i>(Total increase of 2,854 students over 2017 count)</i>
Preliminary Tier B Per Pupil Funding for 2018-19**		\$2,835.13***
Tier B Per Student % of \$6000		47.25%
Percent of Tier B Students Fully Funded at \$6000		47.25%

**State Operated Programs are Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo, Department of Corrections and Department of Youth Corrections. They do not receive funding directly from the Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA), as distributed by CDE. They are each funded through a line item for students with disabilities in the Long Bill.*

***Current 2019-20 allocations are considered preliminary until after the December 1, 2019 special education pupil count, to allow for Charter School Institute adjustments for expanding enrollment. Preliminary numbers are calculated on student counts that do not include students reported at State Operated Programs listed above.*

****SB 19-246 increased Tier B per pupil funding by \$22M resulting in an increase in the preliminary Tier B per pupil funding*

If Additional Funding Were Available, Based on December 2018 Pupil Count					
For All Students (Tier A) Listed on back of chart					104,451
Increase per student funding to \$1,500 per student <i>Current funding of \$1250 per student, has not increased since 2006</i>					\$26,112,750 <i>(104,451 x \$250)</i>
Double current per pupil funding to \$2,500 per student <i>Current funding of \$1250 per student has not increased since 2006</i>					\$130,563,750 <i>(104,451 x \$1250)</i>
For future years, annually increase Tier A per pupil funding by same percentage as applied to School Finance Act					
For Students also in Tier B Listed on back of chart					22,863
Additional Funding	Per Pupil Amount	Current Per Pupil Amount	New Per Pupil Amount	Percentage of \$6,000 funded per student	Percentage of students fully funded at \$6,000
\$20M	\$ 874.78	\$ 2,835.13	\$ 3,709.91	61.8%	61.8%
\$40M	\$ 1,749.55	\$ 2,835.13	\$ 4,584.68	76.4%	76.4%
\$60M	\$ 2,624.33	\$ 2,835.13	\$ 5,459.46	91.0%	91.0%
\$72,358,422.81	\$ 3,164.87	\$ 2,835.13	\$ 6,000.00	100%	100%
Additional Information to Consider					
Increasing the state share of special education funding for Tier A and Tier B will benefit all school districts in the state. Currently available figures (from FY 2016-17) show state share of special education expenditures at 21%, federal share at 16% and local districts covering 63% of actual costs from their local general fund dollars, diverting resources from other local education priorities.					
The Consortium recommends improving funding for Tiers A and B, rather than High Cost Pool in order to more fully benefit all school districts/administrative units in the state, assisting them in building capacity.					

Disability Categories: (Tier A Funding for All Students with Disabilities)

- Intellectual Disability
- Serious Emotional Disability
- Specific Learning Disability
- Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
- Visual Impairment, including Blindness
- Physical Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Deaf-Blind
- Multiple Disabilities
- Preschooler with a Disability
- Infant/Toddler with a Disability
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment

Tier B is comprised of students identified with the following disability categories:

- Visual Impairment, including Blindness
- Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
- Deaf-Blind
- Serious Emotional Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Multiple Disabilities
- Intellectual Disability

Additional information and detail is available through the Consortium of Directors of Special Education, by contacting Lucinda Hundley, (303) 378-7370 or hundleylg0207@gmail.com