

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Insert association] Launches Statewide and National Advocacy Campaign Urging Congress to Fulfill IDEA's 40 Percent Funding Promise

Date: [Insert Date]

Contact: [Insert Name, Title]

Phone: [Insert Number]

Email: [Insert Email]

[insert CITY, STATE, MONTH, DATE] – The [insert association] today announced a statewide advocacy campaign calling on Congress to fulfill its 50-year-old commitment to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Congress pledged to fund 40 percent when IDEA was enacted in 1975. Today, the federal government contributes just 10 percent, leaving [insert state] school districts to subsidize federally mandated services with local general education funds. The statewide special education federal funding shortfall now exceeds [insert amount] annually. If Congress fulfilled its obligation [insert state] would have [insert amount] instead of taking money from the general fund and property taxpayers.

“This is a promise Congress made to students, families, and local schools—and it is a promise that remains unfulfilled,” said [insert]. “Every dollar that Congress withholds is a dollar that schools must divert from general education. Our students deserve better, and our communities deserve the federal support they were promised.”

[Insert association]’s 40 by40 campaign highlights the financial and educational consequences of chronic federal underfunding and urges Congress to adopt a multi-year path to achieve the 40 percent federal share by 2040. “This is not a partisan issue,” said [insert]. “It is a fiscal issue, and an educational achievement issue. [Insert state] districts are proud to provide high-quality services to students with disabilities, but the federal government must honor its obligation.”

When IDEA is underfunded, school districts must redirect funds from:

- Class size reduction
- Mental health supports
- Curriculum updates
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Career and technical education

Rural and property-poor districts bear a disproportionate burden because they have less capacity to raise local revenue.

[Insert association] is urging Congress to:

1. Enact a multi-year glidepath formula to reach the 40 percent IDEA commitment by 2040.
2. Increase annual IDEA appropriations.
3. Protect IDEA from across-the-board cuts.
4. Reaffirm the federal government’s responsibility to fund mandated services.

Press Release, continued

[Insert association] has released an advocacy toolkit including a school board resolution template, Congressional letter templates, social media materials, local impact data, and talking points for school leaders. Districts, families, and community members can learn more and join the campaign at: [\[Insert advocacy website link\]](#)

About [insert]
[insert]