

IDEA Part B Allocation Methodology Update

Frequently Asked Questions | Fiscal Year 2026-27

Overview

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is updating the population measure used to calculate Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Section 611 and Section 619 subgrants. Beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 allocations, ODE will use total enrollment, rather than Special Education Child Count, for the population portion of the federal formula. Federal regulations require states to distribute 85% of remaining funds after base payments according to relative enrollment counts and 15% according to relative poverty counts under [34 C.F.R. §§ 300.705\(b\)\(3\)](#) and [300.816\(c\)](#).

This FAQ explains what is changing, what remains the same, and how ODE will support districts and programs through the transition. It is intended as general information and does not replace federal requirements or district-specific grant guidance.

What districts and programs should know

- For 2026-27, no district will receive a lower total IDEA allocation solely because of the state's update to data sets used in calculations.
- ODE will provide one-time transitional funding to support districts whose 2026-27 allocation would otherwise decrease.
- Beginning in 2027-28, allocations are expected to reflect the updated methodology without the same transitional support.
- IDEA child count reporting and local maintenance of effort requirements are not changing.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why were the 2026-27 IDEA allocation estimates released later than usual?

ODE delayed preliminary estimates while it finalized several factors affecting the 2026-27 allocations, including supplemental federal award information, the updated calculation, and internal operations to reduce administrative burdens for districts. ODE provided one complete set of estimates to give districts a consistent basis for planning.

2. Why do the final IDEA Part B Subaward Notifications (SANs) reflect different amounts than what was posted in August 2026?

ODE posted estimated IDEA Part B 611 and 619 awards prior to the final awards being communicated to states by the Federal Government on October 1. The SANs reflect the final Part B 611 and 619 awards, inclusive of an additional federal supplement. They do not reflect ODE's one-time transitional awards, which will be issued separately.

3. Why is ODE moving away from Special Education Child Count for the population factor?

ODE reviewed the IDEA Part B allocation calculations and determined that total enrollment is the equitable data set to be used for the population factor, as it aligns with the federal IDEA requirements. After base payments, federal rules direct states to distribute 85% of remaining funds based on relative enrollment and 15% based on relative poverty under [34 C.F.R. §§ 300.705\(b\)\(3\)](#) and [300.816\(c\)](#).

3. How does total enrollment support a consistent allocation approach?

Total enrollment provides a common population measure across local educational agencies and is not directly affected by annual changes in the number of students identified for special education. Special Education Child Count will continue to be used for IDEA reporting, monitoring, and other requirements where it applies.

4. Will my district receive less IDEA funding in 2026-27 because of this update?

No. ODE will issue one-time transitional awards funding so that a district's total IDEA allocation is not lower in 2026-27 solely because of the methodology update. SANs released in October 2026 reflect the IDEA Part B 611 and 619 final awards. Separate communications will be released by ODE that reflect additional one-time transitional IDEA awards.

5. How does transitional funding affect local maintenance of effort?

Transitional funds are federal funds and may not be counted as state or local expenditures when a district demonstrates maintenance of effort. Each district remains responsible for budgeting and expending the required level of state and local funds under [34 C.F.R. § 300.203](#). ODE will provide guidance and technical assistance to help districts plan.

6. Does the change in the allocation formula eliminate per-capita maintenance of effort?

No. The allocation formula and the maintenance of effort calculation are separate. Federal rules continue to allow districts to demonstrate maintenance of effort through total or per-capita expenditures using local funds or a combination of state and local funds. The applicable per-capita measure remains based on children with disabilities under [34 C.F.R. § 300.203](#).

7. What should districts expect for 2027-28?

The 2026-27 fiscal year is intended to give districts time to understand the updates and plan for potential changes. Beginning in 2027-28, allocations are expected to use the updated methodology without transitional funding. Actual amounts will depend on the federal award, verified enrollment and poverty data, and any required base-payment adjustments. ODE will share district-level information and planning supports in advance during the 2026-27 fiscal year.

8. How is total enrollment defined for the allocation?

ODE will use verified enrollment data for students enrolled in public and private elementary and secondary schools within each local educational agency's jurisdiction. Federal rules require states to use the best available data and apply the data uniformly across local educational agencies under [34 C.F.R. §§ 300.705\(b\)\(3\)](#) and [300.816\(d\)](#) (2026). ODE uses verified fall student membership data from the prior school year. This aligns with standard state and federal reporting timelines.

9. Do districts still need to collect and report Special Education Child Count data?

Yes. This update applies only to the population factor used in the IDEA Part B subgrant formula. It does not change IDEA child count reporting or other federal and state requirements that rely on those data.

10. If a district's Section 611 allocation increases, may it use the federal 50% adjustment?

Potentially. When a district's Section 611 allocation exceeds the prior year's allocation, federal rules may allow the district to reduce its otherwise required local expenditures by up to 50% of the increase. The adjustment is subject to federal conditions and limitations, including its interaction with coordinated early intervening services (CEIS) under [34 C.F.R. § 300.205](#). Districts should confirm eligibility with ODE before making a budget adjustment.

11. Does this update affect high-cost reimbursements, regional programs, or other specialized funding?

This update is limited to the calculation of IDEA Part B Section 611 and Section 619 subgrants. It does not change other programs or funding streams unless ODE communicates a separate change.

12. What support will ODE provide?

ODE will provide district-specific allocation information, written guidance, webinars, and office hours. The Office of Enhancing Student Opportunities (OESO) and RMO will also coordinate with district associations and respond to technical questions as implementation moves forward. Dates and contact information will be included in the formal allocation communication.