

Did You Know?

Special education

■ Special education is the education of children with disabilities.

■ Schools are required to provide special education services to every eligible child and must provide the needed accommodations, no matter the cost.



■ When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was passed in 1975, the law included a commitment to pay 40% of the average per-student cost for every special education student. That commitment has never been met.

■ Congress currently funds IDEA at less than 18%. Since 1975, the unfunded federal portion has cost local schools and taxpayers more than \$300 billion.

■ Pennsylvania previously provided funding to schools for all special education costs. In the early 1990s, a new system was adopted that distributes special education funding to school districts based on a formula that assumes all costs are equal rather than allowing for real differences in school district needs.

■ Since the 2002-03 school year, state funding of all special education services in Pennsylvania has increased by \$252.5 million.

■ Education of students with disabilities does not end with the traditional school year. Public schools are required to continue services for some students beyond the routine 180-day school calendar to ensure that they do not lose acquired skills due to breaks in service.

Pride & Promise™
Public Schools...Achieve!

An initiative of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, in cooperation with The Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association