

Special Education Funding

State Special Education Funding

General Principles (ARM 10.16.3804)

- Funding based on legislative appropriation and current year ANB
- Local contributions (match) is required
- OPI uses Trustee's Financial Summary (TFS) data to calculate payments

Instructional Block Grant (IBG)

- 52.5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Funded on per-ANB basis (current ANB)
- Paid directly to district
- Part of BASE Budget
- 33% Match required

Related Services Block Grant (RSBG)

- 17.5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Funded on per-ANB basis (current ANB)
- Paid to district, or if member, to the Coop
- Part of BASE Budget
- 33% Match required
- Related services include Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, etc.

Reimbursement for Disproportionate Costs

- 25% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Intended to reimburse those districts with unusually high cost students
- Paid only to districts, not to Coops
- Part of Special Ed Allowable Cost Payment
- No requirement to spend on Special Ed costs
- Rate is \$0.40 for every \$1 spent above threshold

Coop Admin & Travel

- 5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- 60% based on ANB counts of member districts

- 40% based on # of member districts, FTE for itinerant personnel, CY ANB of member districts and # of road miles within co-op boundaries

Quality Educator Payment (20-9-327, MCA)

- Based on # of full-time equivalent educators
 - Distributed to School Districts, Special Education Cooperatives, MT School for the Deaf & Blind, State youth correctional facilities, and the Montana Youth Challenge Program

Special Ed Tuition

- For Out-of-District Attendance Situations
- For In-District Attendance Situations (SB 191)
- State Paid Tuition 20-5-321(d) and (e), MCA
 - OPI pays tuition and transportation costs for non-resident students if:
 - the child is under the protective care of a state agency or has been adjudicated to be a youth in need of intervention or a delinquent youth, as defined in 41-5-103, or
 - the child is required to attend school outside of the district of residence as the result of a placement in foster care or a group home licensed by the state.

IDEA Part B Funding

- Coops receive allocations on behalf of member districts
- Allocated based on formula in IDEA which uses enrollment and population/poverty data

Medicaid Reimbursements

- Administered by Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
- Available programs
 - Direct Services or Direct Care
 - Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC)
 - Comprehensive School & Community Treatment (CSCT)
- May be used for any school purpose (20-9-507, MCA)
- No deadline in which to spend money

Impact Aid

- Flat allocation based on Child Count, LOT percentage
- Must spend for special education purposes
- Funds may be accumulated from year to year

Additional Requirements

Maintenance of Fiscal Effort

*IDEA Part B Funds may not be used to reduce the level of state/local or local fund expenditures for special education below the level of expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.

- OPI calculates MOE using data from the Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS)
- OPI sends a report to the Part B applicant which shows:
 - expenditures for state/local funds in Program 280
 - allowed reduction and decrease in enrollment (calculates per capita)

Districts are allowed to reduce the level of expenditures for special education with one or more of the following Allowed Exceptions:

1. Voluntary departure, by retirement or otherwise, or departure for just cause of special education personnel
2. Decrease in enrollment of children with disabilities
3. Termination of the obligation of the district to provide a special education program to a particular child that is exceptionally costly (e.g., student left the district; no longer requires the special education program)
4. Termination of obligations related to Long-term purchases (i.e., equipment/ facilities)

State Maintenance of Financial Support

Similar to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) at the district level

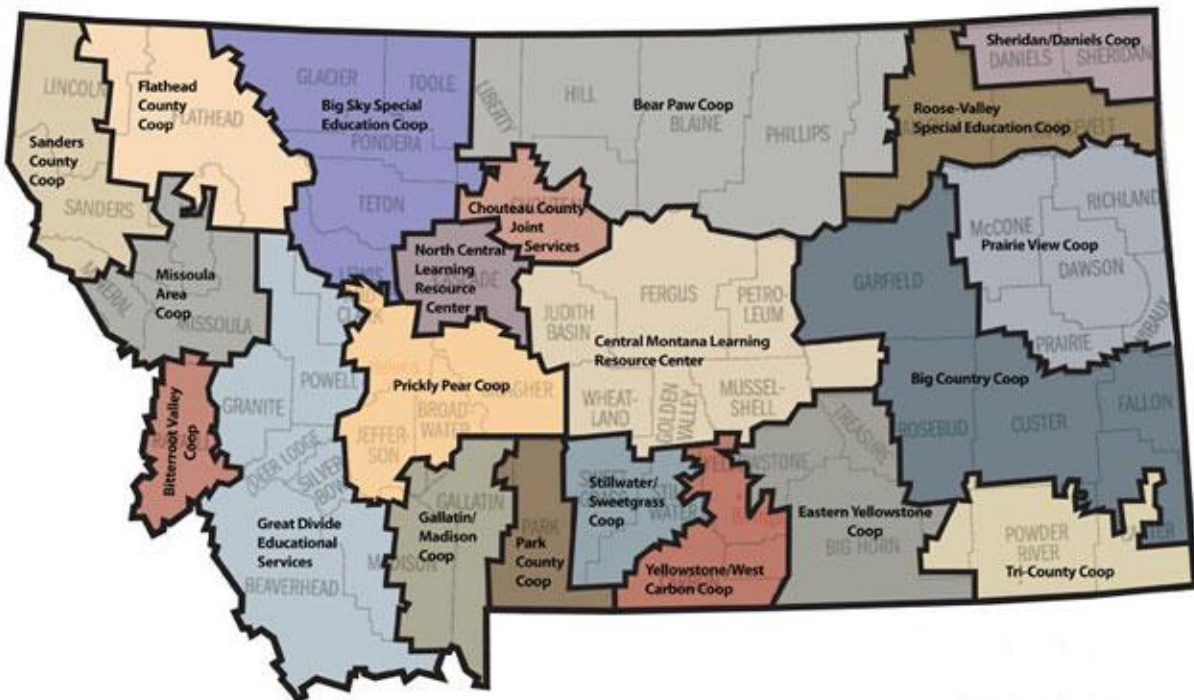
The state is not allowed to reduce the level of appropriation for special education below the level of appropriation for the preceding fiscal year

Includes ALL funds made available for the provision of special education and related services at the state level

Calculation includes amounts appropriated or expended by the OPI, MSDB, DPHHS, and DOC (both youth and adult).

Special Education Cooperatives in Montana

Montana has many small, rural school districts. The costs of providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities in these small districts can be overwhelming, and recruiting and retaining qualified special education staff can be very difficult. The special education cooperatives are designed to address these issues. There are currently twenty-one (21) special education cooperatives operating in Montana. A cooperative is made up of the school districts within the cooperative boundaries that choose to participate. Participation in the cooperative is voluntary for most school districts (those districts receiving less than \$7500 in IDEA funds must join the cooperative) and is at the discretion of the local school board. The cooperative structure allows the school districts to pool the limited resources to employ special education staff that provide services to children on an itinerant basis. The staff typically employed by the cooperatives are the special education director, school psychologist, speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist and physical therapist. Several cooperatives also employ itinerant special education teachers. Additionally, the special education cooperative structure allows the cooperative to maintain carryover funds that can serve as a source of contingency funds if one of the small districts suddenly must deal with a very high cost student.



Because it is not possible to provide exact detail to this Special Education Cooperative Map, questions regarding Cooperative Boundaries should be directed to the Division of Special Education at 406-444-5661.

Montana Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Special Education Cooperative Membership

Bear Paw Cooperative

Member Districts:

Bear Paw Elem, Big Sandy Elem, Big Sandy H S, Box Elder Elem, Box Elder H S, Chester-Joplin-Inverness El, Chester-Joplin-Inverness HS, Chinook Elem, Chinook H S, Cleveland Elem, Cottonwood Elem, Davey Elem, Dodson K-12, Gildford Colony Elem, Harlem Elem, Harlem H S, Hays-Lodge Pole K-12 Schools, Hinsdale Elem, Hinsdale H S, Liberty Elem, North Harlem Colony Elem, North Star Elem, North Star HS, Rocky Boy Elem, Rocky Boy H S, Saco Elem, Saco H S, Turner Elem, Turner H S, Whitewater K-12 Schools, Zurich Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Havre Elem, Havre H S, Malta K-12 Schools

Big Country Cooperative

Member Districts:

Baker K-12 Schools, Carter County H S, Cohagen Elem, Ekalaka Elem, Forsyth Elem, Forsyth H S, Garfield County H S, Jordan Elem, Kester Elem, Kinsey Elem, Kircher Elem, Pine Grove Elem, Plevna K-12 Schools, Rosebud K-12, Ross Elem, S H Elem, S Y Elem, Sand Springs Elem, Spring Creek Elem, Trail Creek Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Colstrip Elem, Colstrip H S, Custer County H S, Miles City Elem

Big Sky Special Education Cooperative

Member Districts:

Auchard Creek Elem, Augusta Elem, Augusta H S, Bynum Elem, Choteau Elem, Choteau H S, Conrad Elem, Conrad H S, Cut Bank Elem, Cut Bank H S, Dupuyer Elem, Dutton/Brady K-12 Schools, Fairfield Elem, Fairfield H S, Galata Elem, Golden Ridge Elem, Greenfield Elem, Heart Butte K-12 Schools, Miami Elem, Mountain View Elem, Pendroy Elem, Power Elem, Power H S, Shelby Elem, Shelby H S, Sunburst K-12 Schools, Valier Elem, Valier H S

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Browning Elem, Browning H S, East Glacier Park Elem

Bitterroot Valley Cooperative

Member Districts:

Darby K-12 Schools, Florence-Carlton K-12 Schools, Lone Rock Elem, Stevensville Elem, Stevensville H S, Victor K-12 Schools

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Corvallis K-12 Schools, Hamilton K-12 Schools

Central Montana Learning Resource Center

Member Districts:

Ayers Elem, Deerfield Elem, Denton Elem, Denton H S, Fergus H S, Geyser Elem, Geyser H S, Grass Range Elem, Grass Range H S, Harlowton Elem, Harlowton H S, Hobson K-12 Schools, Judith Gap Elem, Judith Gap H S, King Colony Elem, Lavina K-12 Schools, Lewistown Elem, Melstone Elem, Melstone H S, Moore Elem, Moore H S, Roundup Elem, Roundup High School, Roy K-12 Schools, Ryegate K-12 Schools, Shawmut Elem, Spring Creek Colony Elem, Stanford K-12 Schools, Winifred K-12 Schools, Winnett K-12 Schools

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

None

Chouteau County Joint Services

Member Districts:

Benton Lake Elem, Carter Elem, Fort Benton Elem, Fort Benton H S, Geraldine K-12, Highwood K-12, Knees Elem

Non-Member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

None

Eastern Yellowstone Special Services Cooperative

Member Districts:

Custer K-12 Schools, Huntley Project K-12 Schools, Hysham K-12 Schools, Lockwood Elem, Pioneer Elem, Shepherd Elem, Shepherd H S, Spring Creek Elem

Non-Member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Hardin Elem, Hardin H S, Lame Deer Elem, Lame Deer H S, Lodge Grass Elem, Lodge Grass H S, Wyola Elem

Flathead Special Education Cooperative

Member Districts:

Cayuse Prairie Elem, Creston Elem, Deer Park Elem, Fair-Mont-Egan Elem, Fortine Elem, Kila Elem, Marion Elem, Olney-Bissell Elem, Pleasant Valley Elem, Smith Valley Elem, Somers Elem, Swan Lake-Salmon Elem, Swan River Elem, Trego Elem, West Glacier Elem, West Valley Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Bigfork Elem, Bigfork H S, Columbia Falls Elem, Columbia Falls H S, Eureka Elem, Evergreen Elem, Flathead H S, Helena Flats Elem, Kalispell Elem, Lincoln County H S, Whitefish Elem, Whitefish H S

Gallatin/Madison Cooperative

Member Districts:

Amsterdam Elem, Anderson Elem, Big Sky School K-12, Cottonwood Elem, Ennis K-12 Schools, Gallatin Gateway Elem, Harrison K-12 Schools, LaMotte Elem, Malmborg Elem, Monforton Elem, Pass Creek Elem, Springhill Elem, West Yellowstone K-12, Willow Creek Elem, Willow Creek H S

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Belgrade Elem, Belgrade H S, Bozeman Elem, Bozeman H S, Manhattan High School, Manhattan School, Three Forks Elem, Three Forks H S

Great Divide Education Services Cooperative

Member Districts:

Alder Elem, Anaconda Elem, Anaconda H S, Avon Elem, Deer Lodge Elem, Dillon Elem, Divide Elem, Drummond Elem, Drummond H S, Elliston Elem, Garrison Elem, Gold Creek Elem, Grant Elem, Hall Elem, Helmville Elem, Jackson Elem, Lima K-12 Schools, Lincoln K-12 Schools, Melrose Elem, Ovando Elem, Philipsburg K-12 Schools, Polaris Elem, Powell County H S, Reichle Elem, Sheridan Elem, Sheridan H S, Twin Bridges K-12 Schools, Wisdom Elem, Wise River Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Beaverhead County H S, Butte Elem, Butte H S, Ramsay Elem

Missoula Area Education Cooperative

Member Districts:

Alberton K-12 Schools, Arlee Elem, Arlee H S, Bonner Elem, Charlo Elem, Charlo H S, Clinton Elem, DeSmet Elem, Dixon Elem, Lolo Elem, Potomac Elem, Seeley Lake Elem, St Ignatius K-12 Schools, Sunset Elem, Superior K-12 Schools, Swan Valley Elem, Woodman Elem,

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Frenchtown K-12 Schools, Hellgate Elem, Missoula Elem, Missoula H S, Polson Elem, Polson H S, Ronan Elem, Ronan H S, Target Range Elem, Upper West Shore Elem, Valley View Elem

North Central Learning Resource Center

Member Districts:

Belt Elem, Belt H S, Cascade Elem, Cascade H S, Centerville Elem, Centerville H S, Simms H S, Sun River Valley Elem, Ulm Elem, Vaughn Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Great Falls Elem, Great Falls H S

Park County Cooperative

Member Districts:

Arrowhead Elem, Cooke City Elem, Gardiner Elem, Gardiner H S, Livingston Elem, Park H S, Pine Creek Elem, Shields Valley Elem, Shields Valley H S, Springdale Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

None

Prairie View Cooperative

Member Districts:

Bloomfield Elem, Brorson Elem, Circle Elem, Circle H S, Deer Creek Elem, Fairview Elem, Fairview H S, Lambert Elem, Lambert H S, Lindsay Elem, Rau Elem, Richey Elem, Richey H S, Savage Elem, Savage H S, Terry K-12 Schools, Vida Elem, Wibaux K-12 Schools

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Dawson H S, Glendive Elem, Sidney Elem, Sidney H S

Prickly Pear Cooperative

Member Districts:

Basin Elem, Boulder Elem, Cardwell Elem, Clancy Elem, East Helena Elem, Jefferson H S, Montana City Elem, Townsend K-12 Schools, Trinity Elem, White Sulphur Springs K-12, Whitehall Elem, Whitehall H S, Wolf Creek Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Helena Elem, Helena H S

Roose-Valley Special Education Cooperative

Member Districts:

Bainville K-12 Schools, Brockton Elem, Brockton H S, Culbertson Elem, Culbertson H S, Frazer Elem, Frazer H S, Froid Elem, Froid H S, Frontier Elem, Lustre Elem, Opheim K-12 Schools

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Glasgow K-12 Schools, Nashua K-12 Schools, Poplar Elem, Poplar H S, Wolf Point Elem, Wolf Point H S

Sanders County Education Services Cooperative

Member Districts:

Hot Springs K-12, Noxon Elem, Noxon H S, St Regis K-12 Schools, Thompson Falls Elem, Thompson Falls H S, Trout Creek Elem

Non-Member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Libby K-12 Schools, McCormick Elem, Paradise Elem, Plains Elem, Plains H S, Troy Elem, Troy H S

Sheridan/Daniels Cooperative

Member Districts:

Medicine Lake K-12 Schools, Plentywood K-12 Schools, Scobey K-12 Schools, Westby K-12 Schools

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

None

Stillwater/Sweet Grass Cooperative

Member Districts:

Absarokee Elem, Absarokee H S, Big Timber Elem, Columbus Elem, Columbus H S, Fishtail Elem, Greycliff Elem, McLeod Elem, Melville Elem, Nye Elem, Park City Elem, Park City H S, Rapelje Elem, Rapelje H S, Reed Point Elem, Reed Point H S, Sweet Grass County H S

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

None

Tri-County Cooperative

Member Districts:

Alzada Elem, Biddle Elem, Birney Elem, Broadus Elem, Hawks Home Elem, Powder River Co Dist H S, South Stacey Elem

Non-Member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Ashland Elem

Yellowstone/West Carbon Cooperative

Member Districts:

Belfry K-12 Schools, Blue Creek Elem, Bridger K-12 Schools, Broadview Elem, Broadview H S, Canyon Creek Elem, Elder Grove Elem, Elysian Elem, Fromberg K-12, Independent Elem, Joliet Elem, Joliet H S, Laurel Elem, Laurel H S, Luther Elem, Molt Elem, Morin Elem, Plenty Coups H S, Pryor Elem, Red Lodge Elem, Red Lodge H S, Roberts K-12 Schools, Yellowstone Academy Elem

Non-member Districts within the Coop Boundary:

Billings Elem, Billings H S