

Special Education Maintenance of Effort

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State Funding Requirement Local vs. District

Funding Requirement

States are required to make the same amount of money available year over year regardless of how much is actually spent on special education programs.

Local districts are required to spend the same amount of money year over year regardless of how much is actually made available for special education programs.

The Distinction Between the State Requirement and Local District Requirement

Even if a state funds a local district at a lower dollar amount than it did the year before, a local district is still required to maintain its own effort.

That means, even a local district gets less money from the state, it must still spend the same or a greater amount on special education programs than it did last year.

If a local district receives less money from the state, and continues to spend the same amount of money on special education programs, it has to “makeup” what it should have received from other funding sources.

Five exceptions that allow a district/LEA to reduce MOE

The voluntary departure of special education staff paid with State and/or local funds by retirement or otherwise, or departure for just cause.

A decrease in the enrollment of children with disabilities.

The termination of a costly obligation (expenditure) for a specific child with an IEP that is paid with State and/or local funds.

The termination of a costly obligation for long-term purchases, such as equipment, construction, and buses paid with State and/or local funds. The definition of long term is one school year.

The assumption of cost by the High Needs Fund (Puente para los Niños).



"MOE" = the total dollars required to be made available by a state as financial support for students with special needs

What has New Mexico done?



