

State Special Education Funding - Fiscal Years 2011-2015

Since 2010, the Mississippi Legislature has under-funded the Special Education Add-on program by millions of dollars each year. The figures below represent the amount required in each fiscal year to fully fund the teacher units needed to meet state mandates regarding special education class size. Also shown are the amounts appropriated and the under-funding amounts for each fiscal year. Rather than providing adequately for the needs of all of the 65,000 Mississippi children who qualify for special education services, the Legislature has proposed spending \$4-million per year to give 500 of the 65,000 children vouchers in exchange for their parents' commitment to withdraw them from public school and to absolve the state of its obligation to provide them an appropriate education. The vouchers will pay tuition at private academies that are not required to provide special education services.

Fiscal Year	SPED Add-On Full Funding	SPED Add-On Actual	SPED Add-On Under-Funding	Percent Under-Funded
2011	\$ 249,021,615	\$ 222,500,813	\$ 26,520,802	10.65%
2012	\$ 242,152,450	\$ 216,871,734	\$ 25,280,716	10.44%
2013	\$ 245,164,787	\$ 217,657,298	\$ 27,507,489	11.22%
2014	\$ 256,142,232	\$ 224,559,895	\$ 31,582,337	12.33%
2015	\$ 272,763,778	\$ 243,687,159	\$ 29,076,619	10.66%
2016*	\$ 285,354,857	\$ 272,970,456	\$ 12,384,401	4.34%
TOTAL			\$ 152,352,364	

*FY2016 Assumes House version of HB1536