

Special Ed Funding Update

May 13, 2024



Background

ISD Special Education Plan

- MDE audit, compliance issues across county
- Revised plan due June 1

Major component of ISD Special Education Plan

- Special education funding formula, allocates significant dollars to locals
- Diverse needs across ISD, always “winners and losers”
- Special Ed Funding Committee, process frustrations
- ISD Superintendent recommendation informed by Superintendents

Okemos Impact

- Future funding levels, budget 25-26, implementation plan undecided

Special Education Funding Sources

- State - provided to District/ISD incurring the cost
- Federal - ISD is fiscal agent
- Local - ISD is fiscal agent
 - All 56 ISDs levy a special education millage
 - Must be approved by local residents
 - Ingham ISD levy = 4.7384 mills which generates \$57.6M

- Total IISD Special Education budget for 2023-24 = \$99.5M

Ingham ISD- Special Education Funding Uses

<i>Payments to District</i>	51.6%
Expenses Related to Tuition Billbacks	36.1%
Expenses that have Dedicated Revenues	4.5%
“Of the Top”, Costs not Billed Back	2.9%
Capital Projects	1.6%
Shared Costs	3.3%

Source: IISD SE Fund Historical Analysis, 2022-23

District Special Education Funding Formula

- \$55.4M which is allocated to local districts and ISD via a formula
- SE Funding Committee
 - Established by Superintendents Roundtable
 - Cross-functional group of school officials (Supt's SE Dir's, Business Officials)
 - Provides ongoing review and modifications to the formula, among other things
- Main Factors in Formula
 - # of SE students
 - GE FTE
 - Enhancement for small districts
- Formula provides a “pot” of money to help offset SE costs

How Are SE Funds Used in District?

- Restricted for use in special education:
 - SE Programs: teachers & paraprofessionals
 - SE Services: SLP, SSW, OT, PT, TC's
 - Specialized transportation
 - Materials needed to meet specialized instructional need

Special Education Decisions and Philosophy

Philosophy and law:

Educate students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment to the maximum extent possible

IDEA and MARSE rules and regulations:

Caseload sizes, ratios in programs, teacher certification, eligibility requirements, schools obligations to students, parent and student rights

ISD Plan:

Includes waivers approved by MDE to increase caseloads for certain programs or services

Beekman Center Update

- Center based Special Education program
 - Provides intensive supports for students
 - No access to neurotypical peers
 - ISD is taking over program and facility
 - Lansing Public Schools has operated Beekman
 - ISD currently operates Heartwood (similar program)
- Okemos students access these programs, when determined appropriate
 - Billed back to district to fund student's attendance
- Forecast: Aging facility and infrastructure
 - No finalized plan to fund needed improvements
 - Special education dollars could be allocated by ISD