

# IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT FEDERAL ADVOCACY TOOLKIT 2024



Dear LAUSD Families, Students and Community Partners:

We invite you to join Los Angeles Unified in urging Congress to pass the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would fully fund the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) over 10 years and provide support to school districts as they ensure students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education. Despite the federal government's promise to provide 40% of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities, it only covers approximately 16%. If the federal government had appropriately funded the IDEA mandate and provided the full 40% funding, Los Angeles Unified would have received approximately \$180-200 million additional dollars annually over the past several years. This funding is critical to meet the educational needs of this student population.

Here are three ways you can make your voice heard.

## **1** ADD YOUR NAME TO THE SIGN-ON LETTER BELOW

Sign-on letters can help make a difference as they demonstrate broad support for an issue. Fill out [THIS FORM](#) to add your signature to the sign-on letter, which will be submitted to key decision-makers to urge them to provide additional funding for school districts to support students with disabilities.

### Sample Letter of Support

Date

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 2051

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Education and The  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and The  
Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We the undersigned parents, community members, and educators of the Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified) write to urge your consideration and passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would provide support to school districts as they ensure that children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education. Despite the federal government’s promise to provide 40% of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities, it currently only covers approximately 16% annually.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) protects students with disabilities by guaranteeing the right to a free appropriate public education. If the federal government had appropriately funded the IDEA and provided the full 40% funding, the Los Angeles Unified School District would have received approximately \$180-200 million additional dollars annually over the past several years.

Without this funding, school districts are required to pay a higher proportion of the special education costs to ensure students with disabilities receive required special education and related services. Each year that Congress fails to fully fund IDEA, our schools and children suffer.

The IDEA Full Funding Act would create a path to gradually increase federal dollars appropriated for IDEA over the next few years until it reaches the 40% level. This essential increase will provide much-needed relief for school districts in the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities. For these reasons, we urge Congress to swiftly pass the IDEA Full Funding Act this year.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

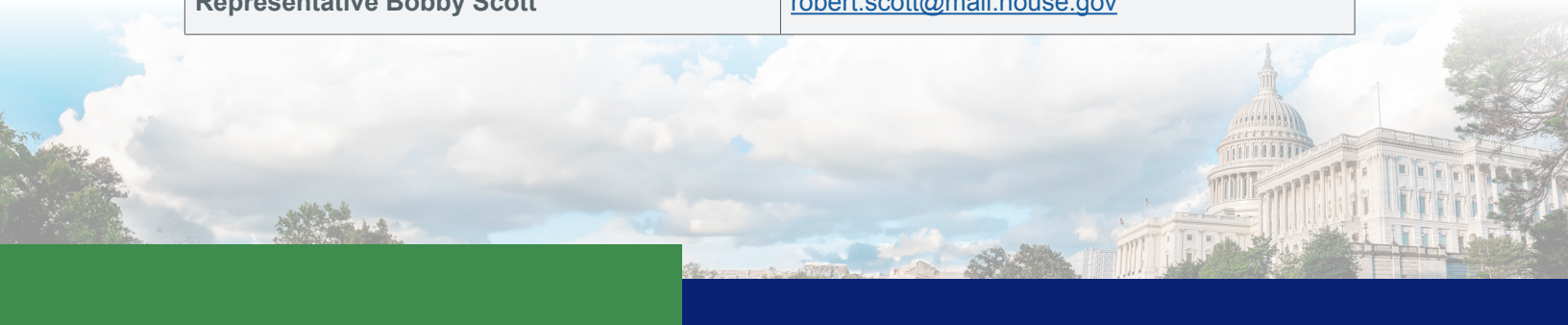
Sincerely,

cc: Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)  
 Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA)  
 Los Angeles Delegation

## 2

### SEND YOUR OWN EMAIL TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

<b>Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer</b>	<a href="mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov">senator@schumer.senate.gov</a>
<b>Senate Mitch McConnell</b>	<a href="mailto:mitch_mcconnell@mcconnell.senate.gov">mitch_mcconnell@mcconnell.senate.gov</a>
<b>Speaker Mike Johnson</b>	<a href="mailto:mike.johnson@mail.house.gov">mike.johnson@mail.house.gov</a>
<b>House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries</b>	<a href="mailto:hakeem.jeffries@mail.house.gov">hakeem.jeffries@mail.house.gov</a>
<b>Senator Bernie Sanders</b>	<a href="mailto:bernard_sanders@sanders.senate.gov">bernard_sanders@sanders.senate.gov</a>
<b>Senator Bill Cassidy</b>	<a href="mailto:bill_cassidy@cassidy.senate.gov">bill_cassidy@cassidy.senate.gov</a>
<b>Representative Virginia Foxx</b>	<a href="mailto:virginia.foxx@mail.house.gov">virginia.foxx@mail.house.gov</a>
<b>Representative Bobby Scott</b>	<a href="mailto:robert.scott@mail.house.gov">robert.scott@mail.house.gov</a>



Dear XX:

My name is [Your Name] and I am a [parent, legal guardian, grandparent, community member, etc.] with the Los Angeles Unified School District (Los Angeles Unified). I write to urge your consideration and passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would provide support to school districts as they ensure that children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education. Despite the federal government's promise to provide 40% of the extra costs associated with educating students with disabilities, it currently only covers approximately 16%.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) protects students with disabilities by guaranteeing the right to a free appropriate public education. If the federal government had appropriately funded the IDEA and provided the full 40% funding, the Los Angeles Unified School District would have received approximately \$180-200 million additional dollars annually over the past several years.

Without this funding, school districts are required to pay a higher proportion of the special education costs to ensure students with disabilities receive required special education and related services. Each year that Congress fails to fully fund IDEA, our schools and children suffer.

The IDEA Full Funding Act would create a path to gradually increase federal dollars appropriated for IDEA over the next few years until it reaches the 40% level. This essential increase will provide much-needed relief for school districts in the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities. For these reasons, we urge Congress to swiftly pass the IDEA Full Funding Act this year.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
XX

### 3 JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

**Copy and paste the sample tweets below to join the conversation on Twitter.**

***Commitment to Quality Tweet: Support IDEA Special Education Full Funding Act***

Thank you @RepHuffman and @ChrisVanHollen for your commitment to ensuring that children with disabilities have access to a high-quality public education. The IDEA Full Funding Act will make this a reality across our nation. Join @LASchools in this advocacy effort! #edequity

***Congress Needs to Meet its Expectations Tweet: Support IDEA Special Education Full Funding Act***

The federal government committed to pay 40% of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities. However, current funding is at 16%. Time for Congress to meet expectations by passing the IDEA Full Funding Act. Join @LASchools in this advocacy effort! #edequity

***Fully Fund Special Education Tweet: Support IDEA Special Education Full Funding Act***

The number of students with disabilities served under IDEA has increased by 25% in the past two decades. Congress must meet its commitment to fully fund it! Join @LASchools in this advocacy effort to increase federal funding for students with disabilities. #edequity

**Twitter Handles**

@SenSchumer  
@SpeakerJohnson  
@SenBillCassidy  
@BobbyScott

@LeaderMcConnell  
@RepJeffries  
@VirginiaFoxx

