

I am a strong supporter of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA is a fundamental civil rights program that provides funds to states for the education of children with disabilities. However, since 1975, this law has been underfunded in the federal budget.

The 1975 law requires the federal government to pay 40 percent of special education costs for school districts. But, in fiscal year 2008 the federal government fell more than \$14.5 billion short on its promise.

That is why I reintroduced the **Full Funding for IDEA Now Act**, [H.R. 526](#), that would require the federal government to fully fund its share of IDEA now and end its long-standing failure to properly fund special education.

I also cosponsored [H.R. 627](#), **Keeping Our PACT Act of 2007**, a bill that would require full funding for IDEA and No Child Left Behind.

For More Information on Special Education Legislation, see:

- CRS Report: [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\): Current Funding Trends](#)
- CRS Report: [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\): Analysis of Changes Made by P.L. 108-446](#)
- CRS Report: [The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\): Overview and Selected Issues](#)