

IDEA Full Funding Coalition

2025 Year of Advocacy: March Monthly Action



As part of our year-long effort to highlight and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the IDEA Full Funding Coalition is undertaking a series of monthly actions that raise awareness around the importance of fully funding the law, and our ongoing efforts to get Congress to honor its original commitment to cover 40% of the additional cost associated with educating students with disabilities.

For March, we are focusing on pre-generated sample twitter/X/bluesky/LinkedIn/Instagram/Facebook posts that you can use on your personal account and/or on your organization's account. They are generated to give you options, with more than enough for you to post daily, if you'd like.

Editor's Note: Please note the various headers in the sample posts: one section focuses on IDEA turning 50, one focuses on what IDEA provides and the push for funding, one focuses on chronic underfunding, one focuses on IDEA fun facts, and at the end we have included—should it be relevant—sample posts specific to the impact of federal shutdown on education funding.

Social Media Graphics

1. [Congress Holds the Power](#)
2. [IDEA is important because](#)
3. [Before IDEA](#)

General Celebration: IDEA is 50!

- **Happy 50th Anniversary to IDEA!** 🎉 Since 1975, this landmark law has transformed education, ensuring students with disabilities receive the services & support they need. Let's celebrate progress & commit to a fully funded future! #IDEA50 #SpecialEducation

- **Before IDEA, only 1 in 5 students with disabilities had access to public education.** Today, thanks to this law, over 7.5 million students receive the services they need. Let's honor this progress by ensuring FULL funding! #IDEAFullyFunded #IDEA50
- **IDEA is a civil rights law, not optional.** But without full funding, schools are left to do more with less. Congress must meet its 40% funding commitment and stop shifting costs to local districts! #IDEA50 #IDEAFullyFunded

What IDEA Provides & the Push for Funding

- **What does IDEA do?**
 - a. Guarantees free, appropriate public education (FAPE)
 - b. Supports Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
 - c. Ensures parent & student rights
 - d. Provides early intervention services
 - e. Empowers inclusive classrooms
#IDEA50 #SpecialEducationMatters
- **What does IDEA do?**
 - a. Ensures access to public education for students with disabilities
 - b. Provides early intervention services
 - c. Supports individualized learning through IEPs
 - d. Fosters inclusion & equitable opportunities
 - e. Strengthens student success & independence
#IDEA50 #SpecialEducationMatters
- **IDEA transformed education by making it inclusive.** Before the law, millions of children were excluded. Now, students with disabilities thrive alongside their peers. Inclusion benefits EVERYONE. #IDEA50 #InclusionMatters
- **50 years later, IDEA remains underfunded.** Congress promised to fund 40% of the cost to educate students with disabilities—it has never come close. It's time to meet that commitment. #FundIDEA #IDEA50
- **Underfunding IDEA shifts costs to states, districts & families.** A fully funded IDEA means better services, smaller caseloads, and stronger student outcomes. Congress must ACT. #IDEAFullyFunded #SpecialEducation
- **FACT:** Congress has never met its 40% funding promise for IDEA. Schools currently receive **around 10%** of the additional cost. Students deserve better! #FundIDEA #IDEA50
- **DYK?** The closest Congress has come to its commitment of 40% through appropriations was 18% in FY 2005.
- **Every student deserves a fully funded education.** When IDEA isn't fully funded, schools are forced to cut corners. Let's push Congress to finally meet its promise! #IDEAFullyFunded #IDEA50

- **ACTION ALERT:** Congress has the power to fully fund IDEA. Let's remind them of their commitment! Call, email, & tag your representatives—tell them to support full funding for special education. #FundIDEA #IDEA50

IDEA's Chronic Underfunding = An Unfunded Mandate

- **IDEA funding shortfalls create an unfunded mandate for local schools.** When Congress underfunds IDEA, states & districts must cover the gap—forcing cuts elsewhere. It's time for Congress to fully fund IDEA. #IDEA50 #FundIDEA
- **Chronic federal underfunding of IDEA = higher costs for local taxpayers.** When Congress fails to meet its commitment, property taxes rise, class sizes increase, and special education resources get stretched thin. #IDEAFullyFunded #IDEA50
- **Congress promised 40% of the additional cost of educating students with disabilities.** Schools get **around 10%** today. The rest falls on states, local districts, and families. That's unacceptable. #FundIDEA #IDEA50

For Policymakers: Why Fully Funding IDEA Matters

- **Fully funding IDEA isn't just the right thing to do—it's the law.** Congress made a promise in 1975 to cover 40% of additional costs for special education. It's time to fulfill that promise. #IDEAFullyFunded #IDEA50
- **Underfunding IDEA weakens local economies.** When schools absorb the cost of federal shortfalls, they cut programs, increase class sizes, and reduce services—hurting students, families, and communities. #FundIDEA #IDEA50
- **Policymakers: Fully funding IDEA isn't just about numbers—it's about equity.** No child should be denied opportunities because Congress refuses to meet its obligation. #FundIDEA #IDEA50
- **Investing in special education benefits ALL students.** Well-funded IDEA programs reduce class sizes, improve teacher retention, and strengthen student outcomes. Congress must act NOW. #IDEAFullyFunded #FundIDEA
- **Every district in America is impacted by IDEA funding shortfalls.** Fully funding IDEA means:
 - ✓ More resources for special education
 - ✓ Lower local tax burdens
 - ✓ Stronger schools & communities
 Congress must act! #IDEA50 #FundIDEA

Fun Facts on IDEA More Generally

- Did you know? Before IDEA, 1 million students with disabilities were entirely excluded from public schools. Today, 7.5 million students benefit from its protections! #IDEA50 #Inclusion
- 50 years of IDEA! Since 1975, nearly 90% of children with disabilities now attend neighborhood schools—learning alongside their peers. #IDEA50 #InclusionMatters

- The "I" in IDEA stands for INDIVIDUALS. IDEA ensures each student gets a personalized education plan (IEP) tailored to their unique needs! #IDEA50 #SpecialEducation
- Fun fact: IDEA was originally called the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. It was renamed in 1990 to reflect a stronger focus on individuals and education. #IDEA50
- Before IDEA, only 1 in 5 students with disabilities had access to public education. IDEA changed that—transforming access and equity in our schools! #IDEA50 #EducationForAll
- IDEA isn't just for K-12! It also funds early intervention services for babies and toddlers, giving kids a strong start from birth to age 3. #IDEA50 #EarlyIntervention
- Fact: IEP meetings are a cornerstone of IDEA. Parents, teachers, and specialists collaborate to ensure each child's education plan meets their needs. #IDEA50 #Teamwork
- Did you know? IDEA requires schools to provide transition services starting at age 16 to help students move from high school to adulthood—whether that's college, work, or independent living. #IDEA50 #LifeReady
- IDEA protects parents' rights, too! Families have a voice in their child's education, including the right to participate in IEP meetings and challenge decisions. #IDEA50 #ParentPower
- Since IDEA passed, graduation rates for students with disabilities have more than doubled! Education transforms lives—and IDEA makes it possible. #IDEA50 #SuccessStory
- Fun fact: IDEA doesn't just benefit students with disabilities—it helps all students. Inclusive classrooms promote diversity, empathy, and collaboration. #IDEA50 #InclusionBenefitsEveryone
- Did you know? Congress originally promised to cover 40% of the cost of special education under IDEA. Today, schools receive less than 15%! It's time to fully fund IDEA! #FundIDEA #IDEA50
- IDEA at 50: This landmark law ensures that millions of students receive free and appropriate public education (FAPE)—a cornerstone of educational equity. #IDEA50 #FAPE
- What does IDEA mean for students?  Individualized learning plans  Early intervention  Inclusive classrooms  Protections & advocacy  Pathways to independence #IDEA50
- IDEA supports educators, too! The law provides funding for teacher training and professional development, helping schools meet the needs of all learners. #IDEA50 #TeachTheFuture

Federal Shutdown Tweets

Should Congress fail to complete its funding work and go to shutdown, the following tweets will be relevant. They are not IDEA-specific, but talk about education funding and how shutdowns are bad.

THREAD on federal shutdown

- A federal shutdown isn't just about closed parks & delayed paychecks—it has real consequences for education funding. Here's what it means for schools, students, & educators. 🗳️⬇️ #EdFunding #Shutdown
 - 1/ **Immediate Impact?** Most federal education \$\$ is forward-funded, meaning schools won't feel the hit on Day 1. But the longer a shutdown drags on, the greater the disruption. #EducationMatters
 - 2/ **Title I & IDEA:** Funds for low-income students & special education are already allocated for this school year. But what happens if the shutdown drags on? Admin staff at @usedgov furloughed = delays in grant processing, reimbursements & guidance. #SpecialEducation
 - 3/ **Head Start Programs** 🏠: Some centers—especially those operating on shorter funding cycles—could be forced to close if Congress doesn't act. That means working parents scrambling for childcare & kids missing out on early learning. #HeadStart
 - 4/ **Impact on New Grants & Funding Applications:** No new federal \$\$ can be awarded during a shutdown. Schools applying for competitive grants? Stalled. States waiting on guidance? Delayed. #EdPolicy
 - 5/ **School Meals & Nutrition Programs** 🍎: USDA programs like school lunch & breakfast have funding for a short window. But if the shutdown stretches out, millions of kids relying on free/reduced meals could be at risk. #SchoolMealsMatter
 - 6/ **Federal Employees & Contractors:** Many @usedgov employees get furloughed, meaning the people who process funding, answer district questions, & support school programs? Out of office. #ShutdownImpact
 - 7/ **The Bottom Line:** A short shutdown may cause minimal disruption, but prolonged inaction = real consequences for schools, students & families. Congress must act. #FundEducation
 - 8/ **Want to take action?** Call your representatives & tell them that schools can't wait. Our students deserve stability—not shutdowns. 📞🏠 #SaveEducationFunding

Here are stand alone tweets specific to a federal shutdown:

- 🚨 A federal shutdown threatens education funding! While most federal funds are forward-funded, a prolonged shutdown could delay critical grant processing, reimbursements & support for schools. #EdFunding #Shutdown
- A federal shutdown puts @usedgov staff on furlough—meaning fewer resources, delayed grant processing, & slow responses to schools needing federal guidance. Our schools deserve better! #EducationMatters
- Federal shutdowns disrupt Head Start programs, leaving families without early childhood education & working parents scrambling for childcare. Congress needs to act—our kids can't wait! #HeadStart #EarlyLearning
- Did you know? School meal programs rely on federal funds through the USDA. While short-term funding might hold, a prolonged shutdown could jeopardize meal access for millions of students. #SchoolMealsMatter

- Special education services rely on IDEA funding—but during a federal shutdown, processing & support from the federal level could slow down, impacting students with disabilities. #IDEA #SpecialEducation
- A federal shutdown means NO new federal education grants. Schools and districts that depend on competitive grants for innovative programs are left in limbo. Students lose out. #EdPolicy
- When federal employees are furloughed, our schools suffer. From processing funding to providing guidance, the support schools rely on comes to a halt. Our kids deserve stability! #Education
- School districts count on timely federal funding for Title I, IDEA, & more. A federal shutdown means uncertainty for critical programs that serve our most vulnerable students. #ShutdownImpact
- During a federal shutdown, schools with impacted Head Start programs might close their doors, leaving children & families without critical early education services. #EarlyEd #CongressActNow
- The longer a federal shutdown lasts, the more severe the impact on education—delayed funding, stalled programs, & uncertain futures for schools, students & educators. #FundEducation