

# SPED Staff SUPPORTS

A Member's Union  
**OSEA**  
AFT Local 6732



# **SPEd Staff Supports**

**2017 Legislation**

## **SB 363**

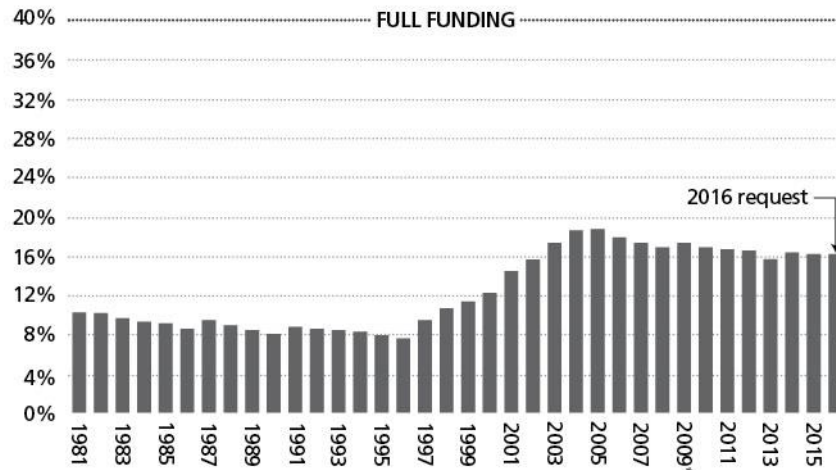
**Directs ODE to conduct a study on methods for improving safety of work environments for staff involved in SPEd and related services.**

# What's happening?

"My name is Beth. I have been a Special Education Assistant for many years. One day I was working with a student who became increasingly agitated and then the teen erupted and started kicking me in the head with heavy boots.

It changed my life. I suffered a severe concussion. For months I could not speak without stuttering. I struggled with psychological symptoms that my doctor compared to Post Traumatic Syndrome. I was out of work for 6 months before I could return to work – part-time."

# Average federal cost share per special needs student



\*Excludes one-time American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds

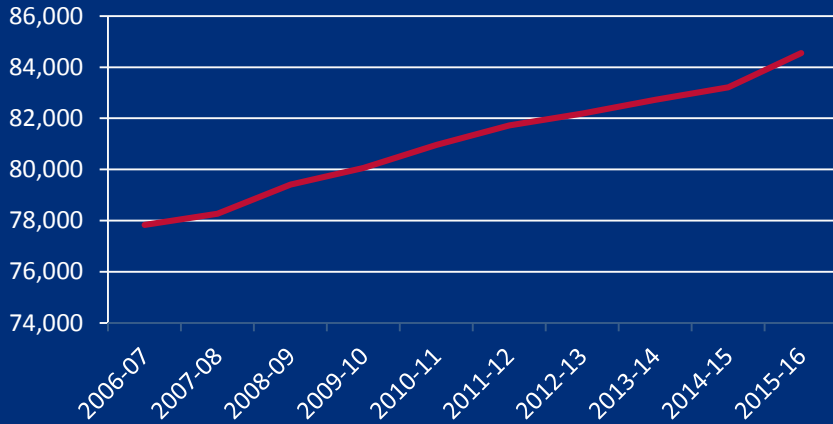
SOURCE: NEA

**Congress has NEVER fully funded the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

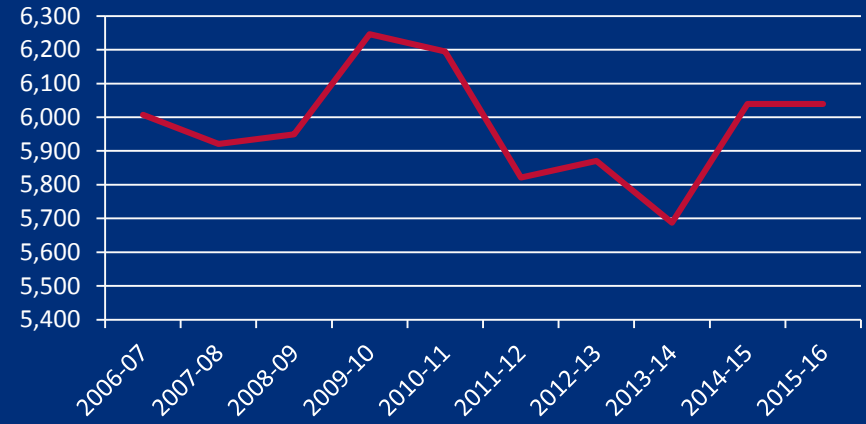
# Compare:

Number of students requiring SPED services continues to grow, while SPED assistant FTE remains at 2006 levels

### Students



### Special Education Assistants



**+8.6%**

**+0.5%**

# Other contributing factors

- OSHA does NOT require schools to report injuries unless the employee is killed, loses an eye or a limb, or is hospitalized
- Service providers (special education assistants, bus drivers, etc.) are often not included in development or updates of Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or behavioral assessments
- Oregon school districts are legally required to collect injury reports, but are not obligated to pass on information to state or federal regulators
  - OSHA discovered one district was simply stuffing them in a secretary's desk

# Questions?