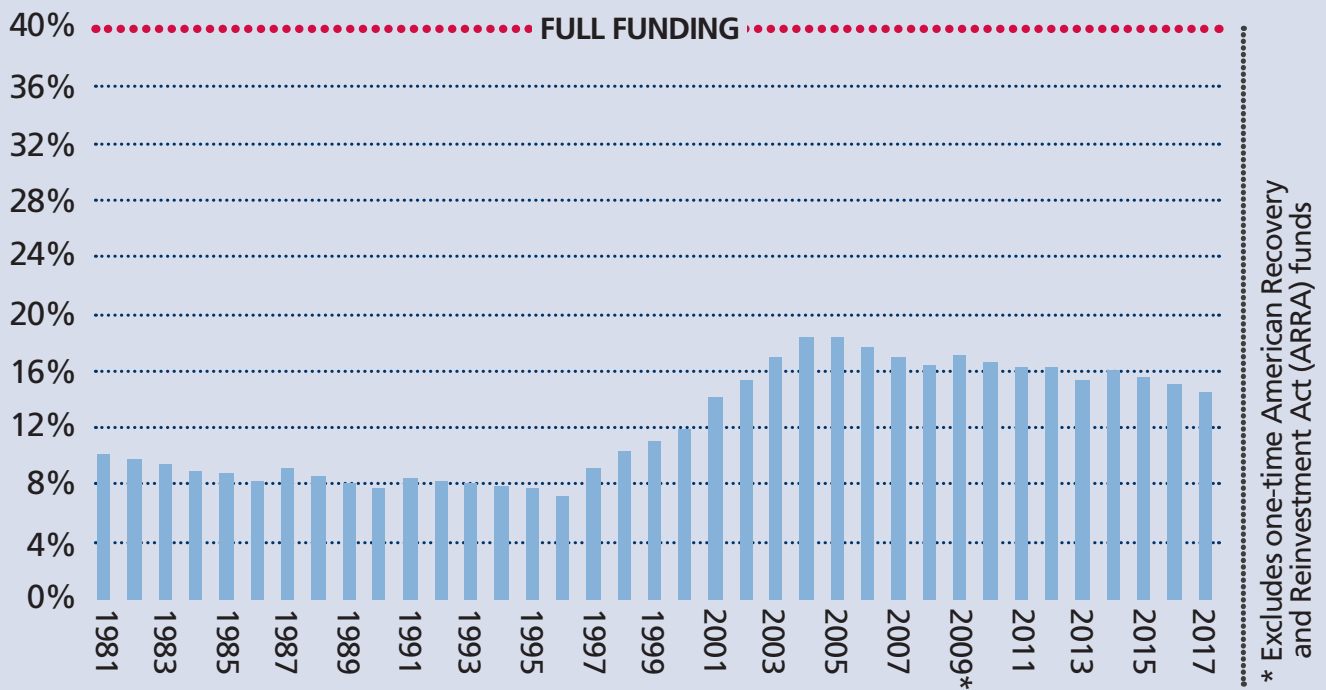


# Inadequate SPED funding

The assumption underlying IDEA is the cost of educating children with disabilities is about twice the average cost of other children. In 1981, Congress determined the federal government would pay up to 40 percent of the excess costs (full funding). Federal funding has never come close to this goal. For fiscal year 2017, the average federal share per child (14.6 percent) is the lowest since 2001 (14.2 percent).

**Average federal cost share per special needs student**



Oregon similarly funds special education by doubling the average per-pupil allocation, but caps funding at 11 percent of the student body. In 2017-18, the average school district had a SPED population of 14.4 percent.

*SOURCES: National Education Association, Oregon Department of Education*

