



*The Key to Success*

for Alaskan Educators Serving Students  
with Low-Incidence Disabilities



# Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

SESA provides consultation and training to support the unique educational needs of individuals and the Alaskan communities that serve them.



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## **Background**

- Created in 1986; formed as a not-for-profit Corporation;
- Governed by the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;
- Receive Low Incidence Disabilities funding through DOEED based on prior years statewide total enrollment;

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004)

The State is required to meet the mandate of IDEA 2004 to “ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designated to meet their unique needs.”

The Legislature intended for SESA to help DEED fulfill this requirement by assisting schools with providing special education to children experiencing LID.



## **A.S. 14.30.630(b) (1) requires SESA to provide the following special education services:**

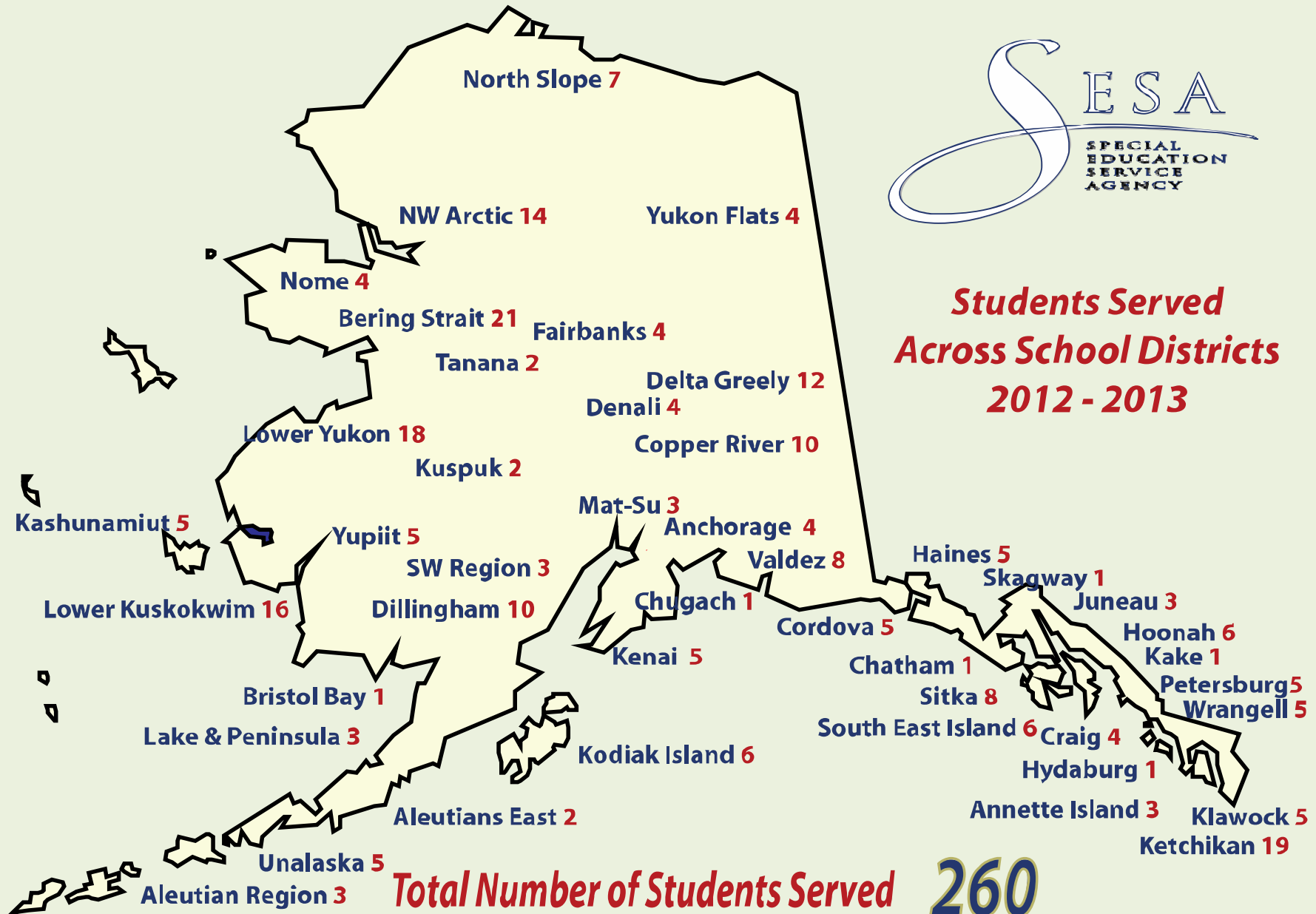
- (A) **Itinerant outreach services** to students who are deaf, deaf-blind, mentally retarded, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, orthopedically disabled, health-impaired in other ways, and severely emotionally disturbed, and to students with multiple disabilities;
- (B) Special education instructional **support and training** of local school district special education personnel; and
- (C) **Other services** appropriate to special education needs.







***Students Served  
Across School Districts  
2012 - 2013***



***Total Number of Students Served 260***

# SESA Services

**Itinerant service – Observation/Evaluation/Evidence Based Strategies/**

**In-service training (Teachers/Paraprofessionals/Parents)**

**Alaska State Special Education Conference (ASSEC)**

**Courses designed and offered for university credit**

**Alaska State Deaf Education Advisory Board**

**Governor's Council/ Rural Education/Autism/Early Intervention**

**AARC/BTKH/DSI**

**Other Non-profits – Stone Soup/Center for Human Development/ILP**

**Distance Education**



# Special Education Service Agency

[HOME](#) [AUTISM](#) [EMOTIONAL](#) [VISION](#) [HEARING](#) [MULTIPLE DISABILITIES](#) [DEAFBLIND](#) [LIBRARY](#) [AARC](#) [ETSP](#) [GAINS](#) [ABOUT SESA](#)



## What is the Special Education Service Agency (SESA)?

Watch SESA specialists in action in this video:



SESA is an educational service agency comprised of a core low incidence disability service inclusive of a statewide lending library. Low incidence disabilities include [autism](#), [hearing impairment](#), [vision impairment](#), [emotional disabilities](#) and [multiple disabilities](#). In addition, SESA operates four grants:

1. Alaska Autism Resource Center ([AARC](#))
2. Educational Transition Support Project ([ETSP](#))
3. Alaska Deaf Blind Project ([DGB](#))
4. Guiding and Investing in New Special Educators ([GAINC](#))

SESA was created in 1986 by the Alaska State Legislature to provide the following special education services to Alaska's school districts:

- A. Intensive outreach services to students who are autistic, deaf, deafblind, cognitively impaired, hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, orthopedically disabled, health impaired in other ways, severely emotionally disturbed, and to students with multiple disabilities.
- B. Special education instructional support and training of local school district special education personnel; and
- C. Other services appropriate to special education needs.

## How to access SESA services

In order for SESA to consult with teams about specific students, a referral must be completed. The Referral Packet contains all the necessary forms to be filled out for SESA services to begin. [Access a referral packet now!](#)

## Our Mission

SESA provides consultation and training to support the unique educational needs of individuals and the Alaskan communities that serve them.

## Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting: March 25, June 3 and June 4, 2013  
Monday, March 25: Work Session 8:00 AM; Business Meeting 1:00 PM  
Monday, June 3: Work Session 8:00 AM  
Tuesday, June 4: Business Meeting 8:00 AM

Posted By: webadmin

## Contact us

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[sest@sesta.org](#)

[SESA Administration](#)

[Contact Webmaster](#)

## Referrals

Use the SESA Referral Packet to request SESA services. [Access a referral packet now!](#)

## Resources

[SESA Newsletter Archives](#)

[SESA Legislative Sunset Review \(2012\)](#)

[GA System 1 Credit Initiative Individualized PDS](#)

## Useful Links

[Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education](#)

[Alaska State Special Education Website](#)

[Alaska Office of Children Services](#)

[South East Regional Resource Center \(SERRC\)](#)

[Accredited Online Colleges and Disability Education](#)

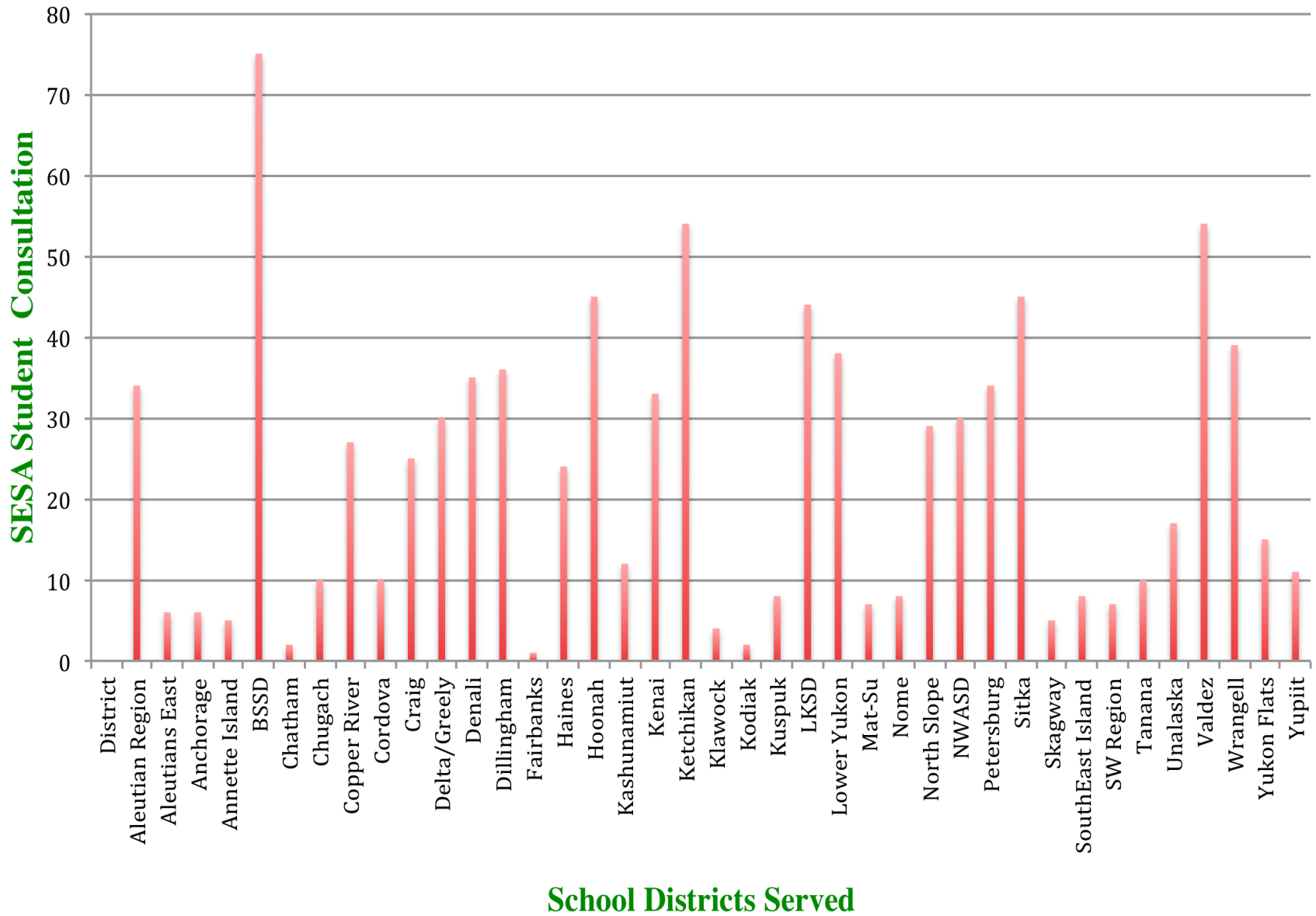
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[read more](#)





## *SESA FY12 Student Consultation by District*



# Legislative Audit Report

## Recommendation #1

Reiteration from the prior report that the Legislature should review SESA funding; and

“Over the past 14 years, school districts have received increases in their funding formula, yet SESA’s funding formula has not increased. ...the historical process for evaluating and increasing SESA funding has been a legislative process...”



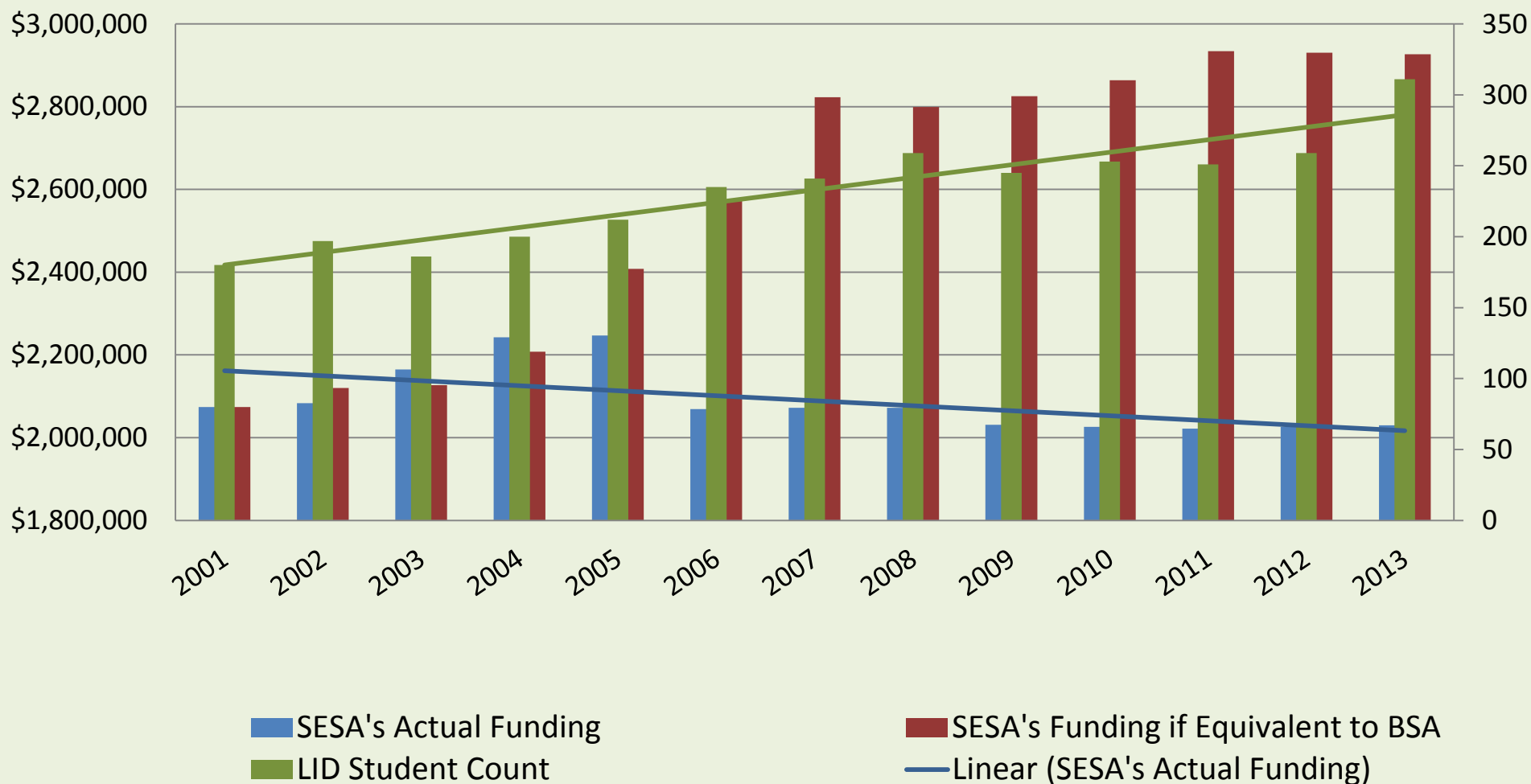
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This graph shows how LID student count has increased while SESA's overall funding has decreased due to decreased ADM.

## **SESA's Actual Funding vs Funding if Equivalent to BSA vs Student Count**



# Legislative Audit Report

“Due to inflation, the real value of SESA’s LID budget, as established 14 years ago, has decreased 36%. Accounting for inflation since 1998, SESA’s funding in today’s dollars would be approximately \$21.50 per student rather than the current funding formula of \$15.75.

As a result, SESA is experiencing challenges with recruiting and retaining education specialists with specialized disability endorsements and meeting school’s need for itinerant outreach services.





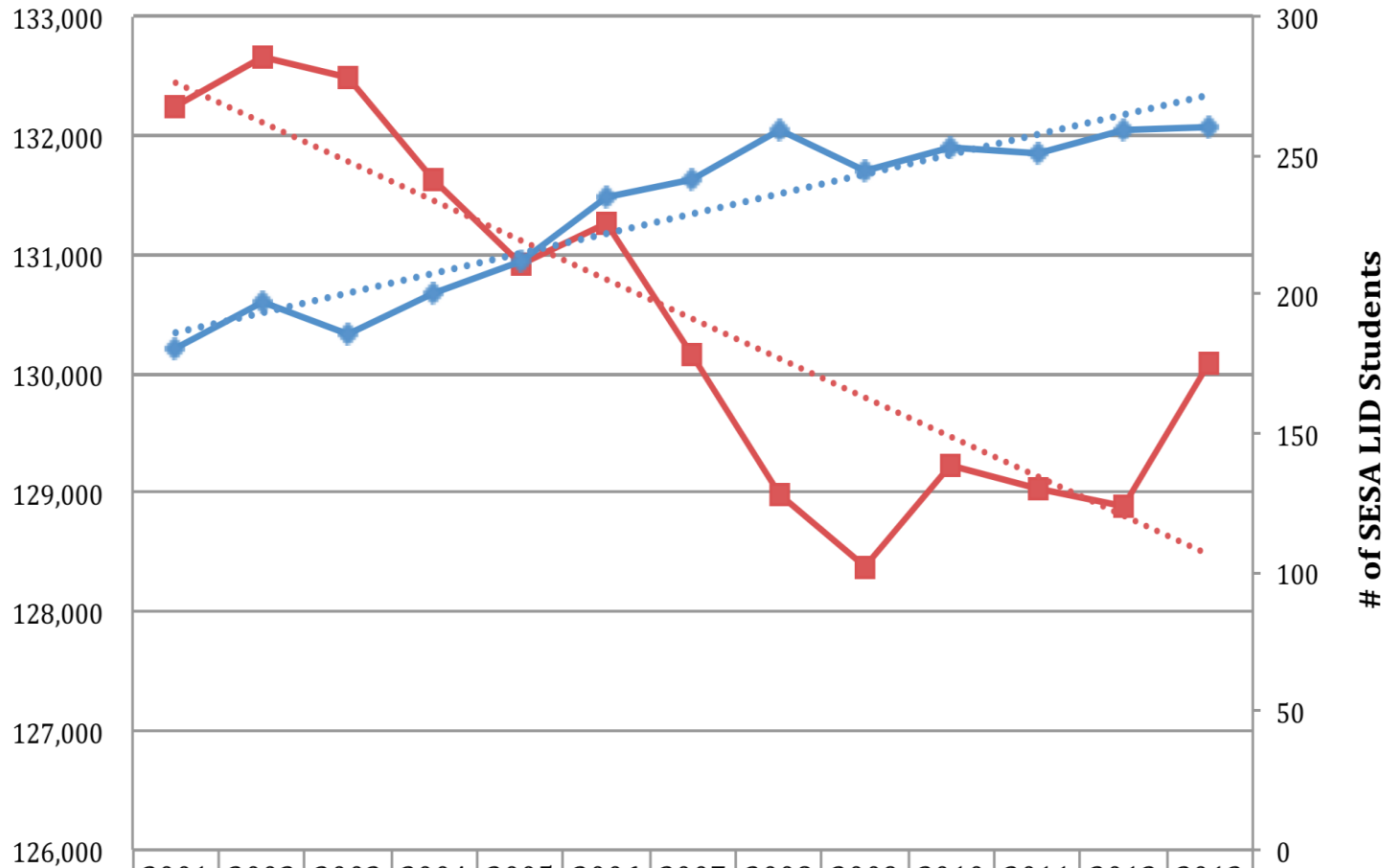
**This chart shows the increase in the Consumer Price Index and Base Student Allocation, with SESA's funding remaining flat.**

**CPI and BSA Increase vs. SESA Funding**



# ADM (i.e. SESA's Funding) vs SESA LID Student Count FY 2001-FY2013

Average Daily Membership (ADM) State of Alaska



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
— Average Daily Membership	132,251	132,661	132,481	131,621	130,921	131,261	130,161	128,971	128,381	129,221	129,041	128,881	130,091
— Student Count - LID	180	197	186	200	212	235	241	259	245	253	251	259	260

■ Average Daily Membership 
 ◆ Student Count - LID 
 ..... Linear (Average Daily Membership) 
 ..... Linear (Student Count - LID)



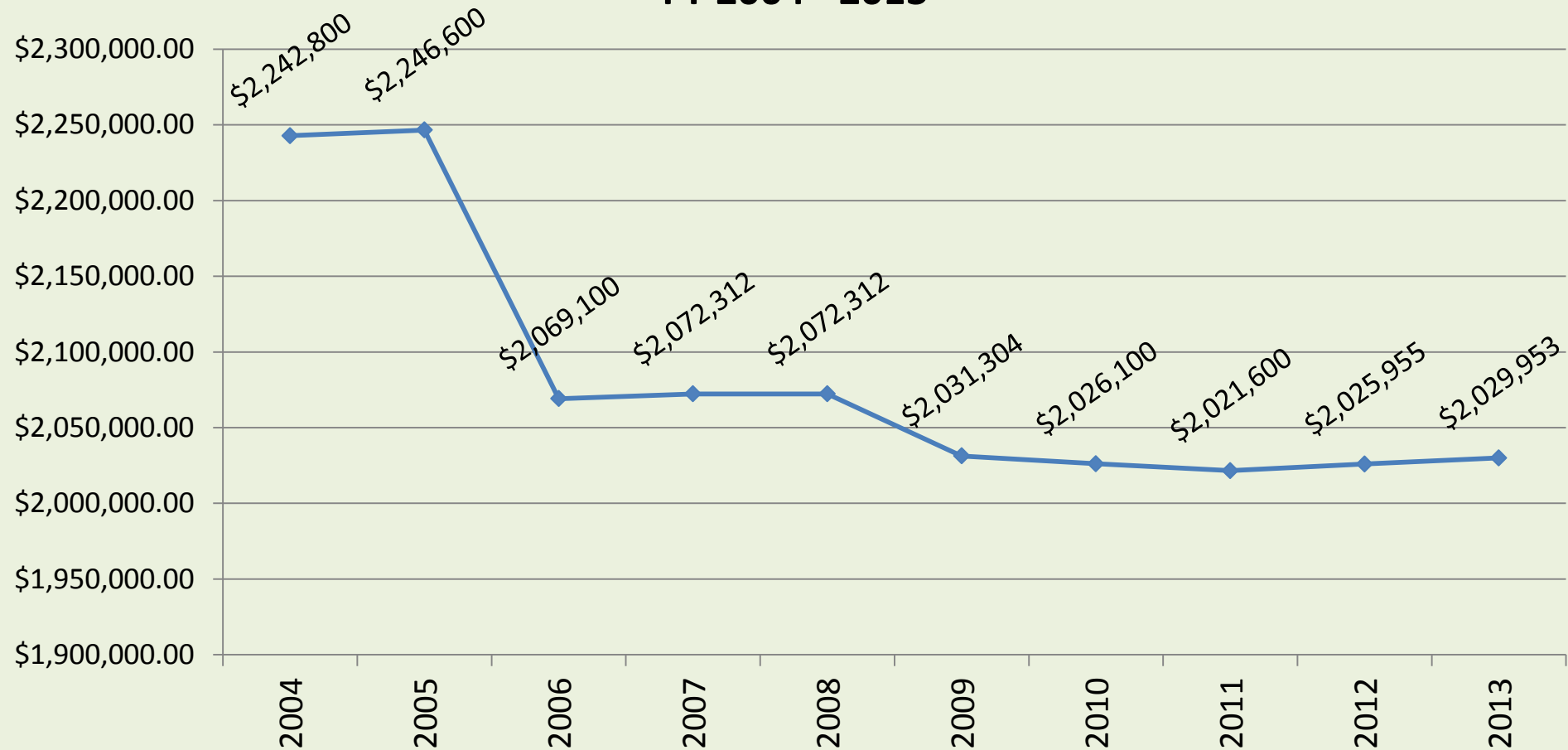
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## A Review of SESA's Low Incidence Disabilities Funding Over the Past 10 Years.

### SESA's Funding FY 2004 - 2013



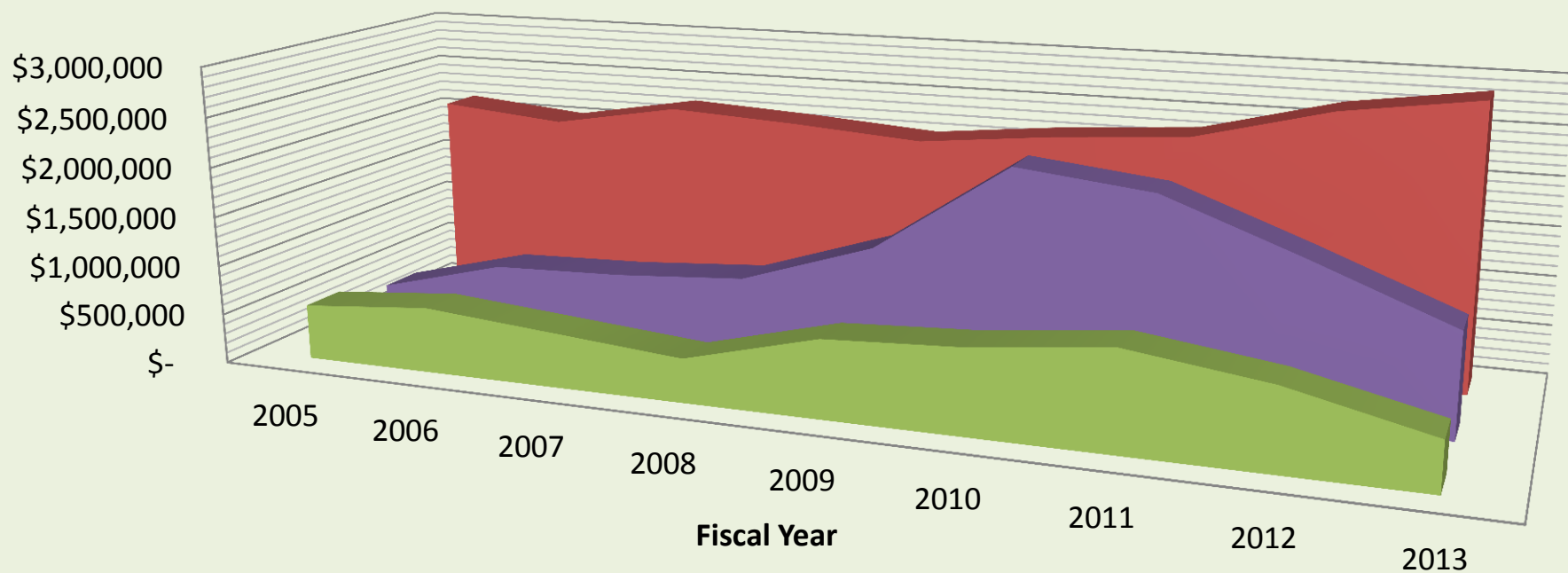


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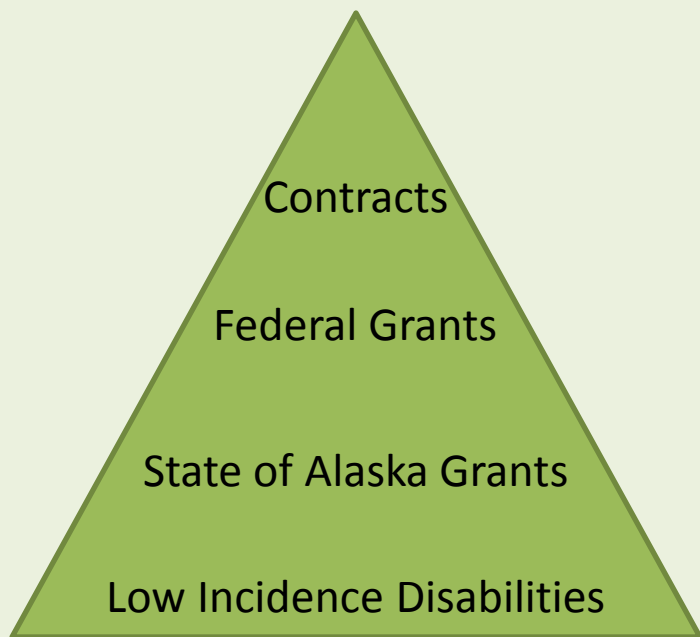
## LID Cost of Operations, Fund Balances AND Grant Expenditures FY2005 - FY2013 (9 Years)



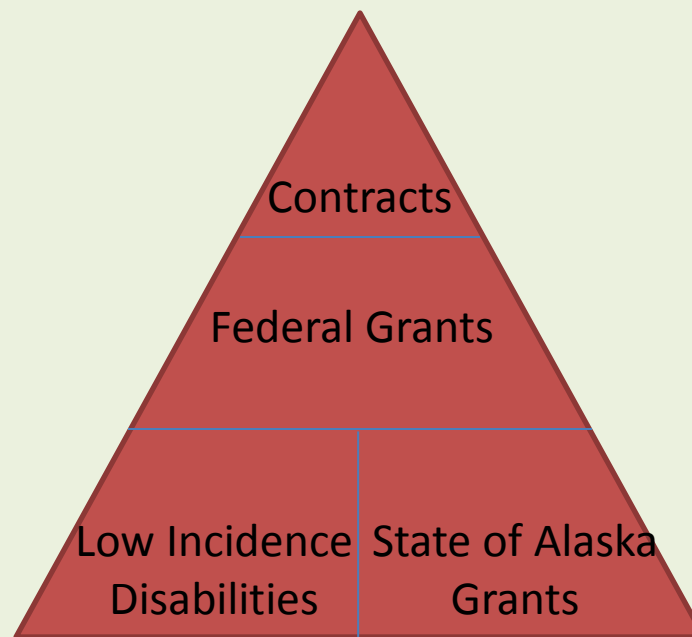
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
■ Fund Balance	\$552,789	\$661,919	\$552,553	\$441,479	\$780,263	\$847,623	\$993,746	\$810,268	\$494,156
■ Total Grant Expenditures	\$400,708	\$734,390	\$775,280	\$864,373	\$1,301,67	\$2,211,11	\$2,064,41	\$1,563,96	\$1,038,10
■ LID Cost of Operations	\$2,140,88	\$2,025,56	\$2,254,82	\$2,185,70	\$2,094,59	\$2,233,09	\$2,328,11	\$2,670,56	\$2,860,88



## **How SESA's Funding Should be Structured VERSUS How it is Currently Structured**



With this structure, SESA is built upon providing LID services, and its funding reflects same.



With the current funding structure, LID payments are insufficient to provide the LID services requested by districts.





At the top of the stairs,  
she met a flapping ghost.



"The curtain's  
come down," said  
Mrs. Muddle Mud-puddle,  
and she hung it  
at the window.







# Impact of Continued Underfunding

1. Free and **appropriate** public education.
2. Reduced expertise to provide **targeted interventions on site**.
3. Loss of **guidance to new special education teachers**.
4. Loss of specific **strategies modeled on-site** to teachers.
5. Reduced ability to **recruit quality specialists** to Alaska.
6. Limited exposure to **professional development**.
7. Parents **unhappy with instructional components** of program.
8. School district **need** for SESA expertise.
9. Possible increase in **lawsuits** by parents.



# **Alaska Legislative Recommendation**

1. Alaska Statute Funding Calculation for SESA should be changed to:

\$21.50 for FY14 and a half of a percentage increase for each year thereafter.

2. SESA needs these funds to provide:

- (a) competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified specialists,
- (b) provide quality services to students teachers, parents, and to
- (c) maintain infrastructure within a context of short term or discontinued grant funding cycles.



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# Thank You!

Please support HB87,  
extending the sunset and fully funding SESA