



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.



2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The State is required to meet the 2004 IDEA 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 children affected by LID.



Legislative Audit Report

June 22, 2012

Recommendation #1: Reiterating 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...”



The Key to Success

for Alaskan Educators Serving Students
with Low-Incidence Disabilities



Legislative Audit Report

June 22, 2012

“Due to inflation, the real value of SESA’S LID budget, as established 14 years ago, has decreased 36 per cent. Accounting for inflation since 1998, SESA’s funding formula in today’s dollars would be approximately \$21.50 per student rather than the current funding formula amount of \$15.75. As a result, SESA is experiencing challenges with recruiting and retaining education specialists with specialized disability endorsements and meeting schools’ need for itinerant outreach services.”

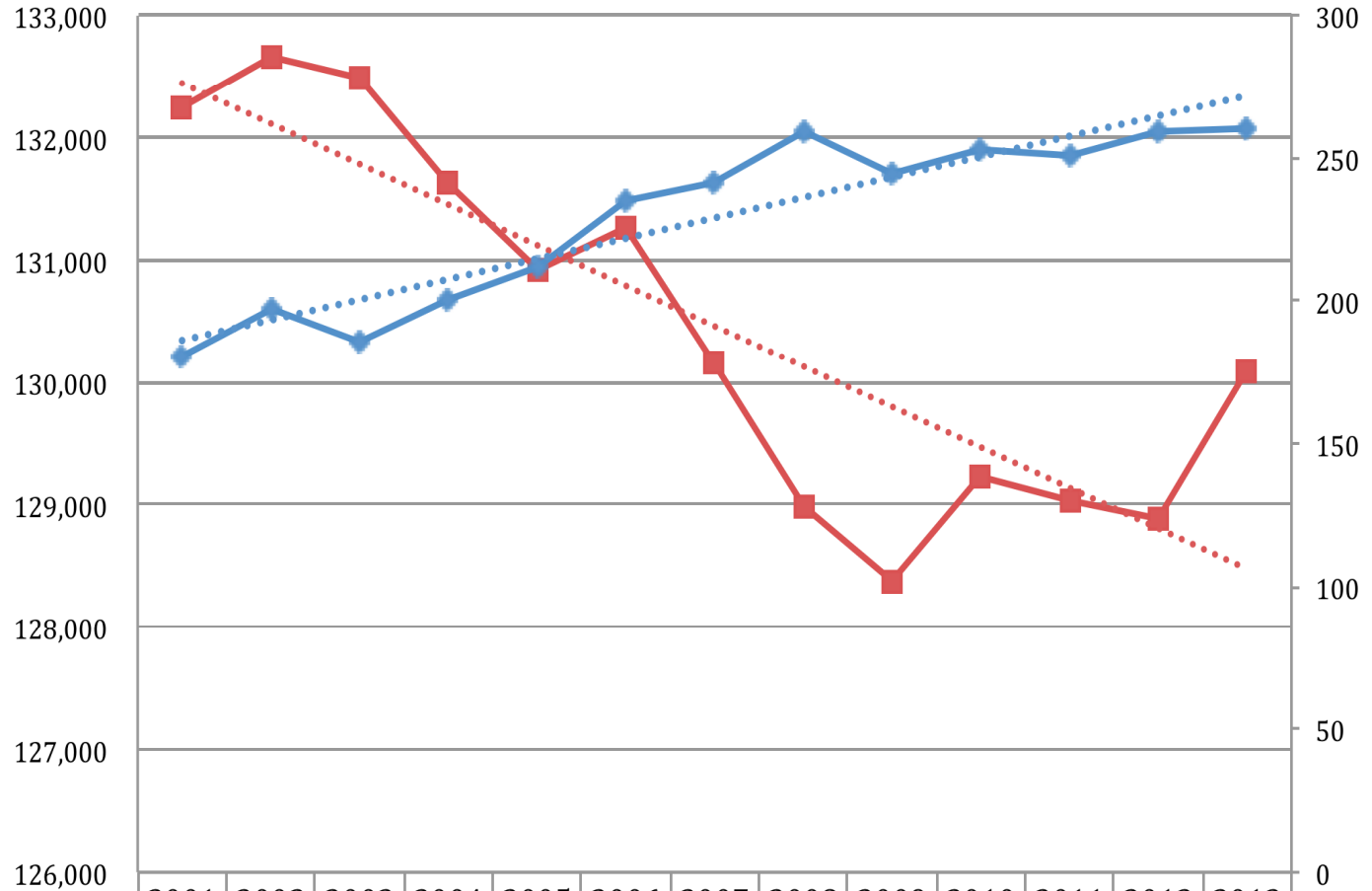


Senate Bill 17 Conclusion

1. Alaska Statute Funding Calculation for SESA should be changed to **\$21.50**
2. SESA needs these funds to:
 - (a) fulfill the intent of the Legislature, and the mandate of the 2004 IDEA;
 - (b) provide competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified specialists;
 - (c) continue providing quality services for LID children;
 - (d) maintain consistent infrastructure despite short term or discontinued grant funding cycles.

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

Average Daily Membership (ADM) State of Alaska



of SESA LID Students

■ 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)



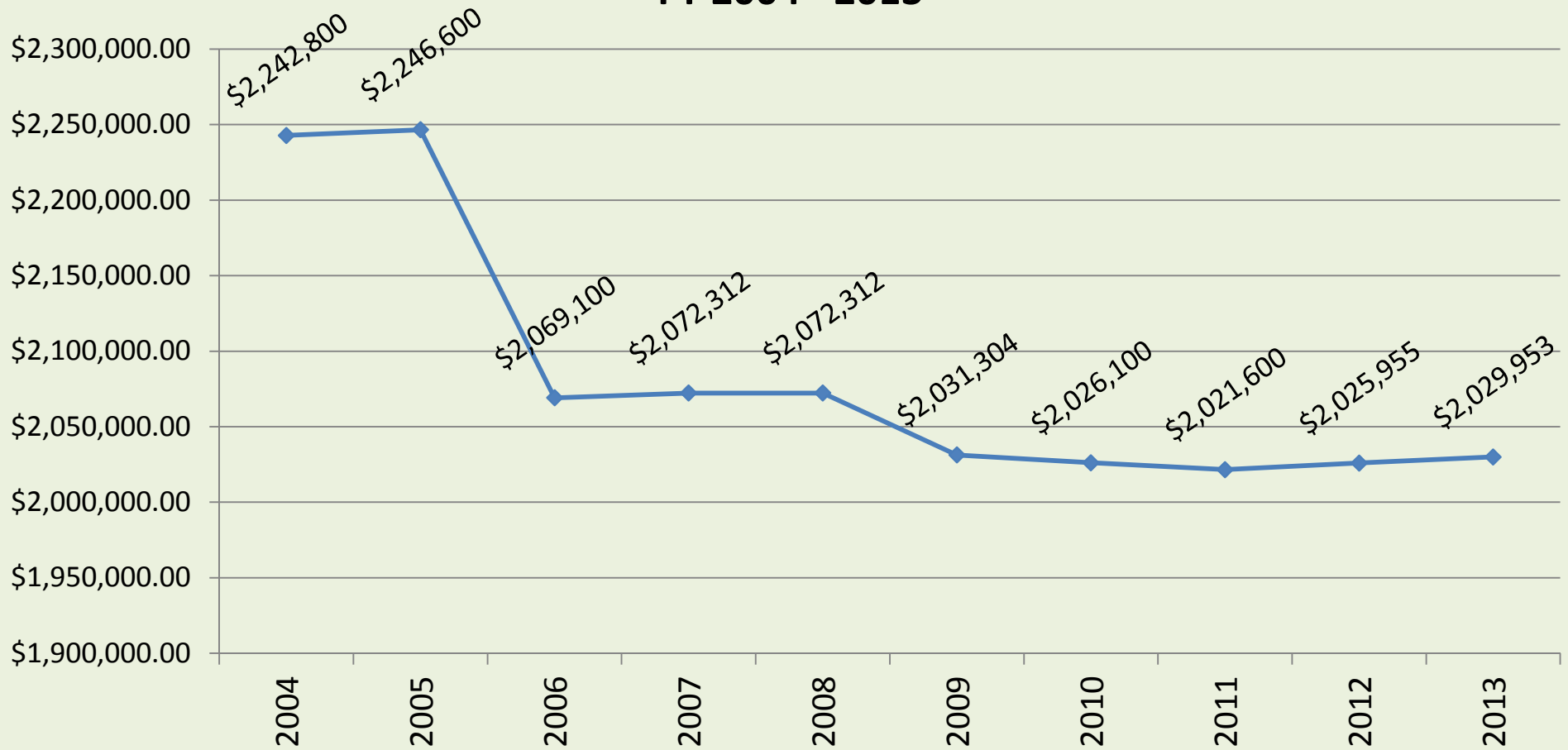
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A Review of SESA's Low Incidence Disabilities Funding Over the Past 10 Years.

SESA's Funding FY 2004 - 2013





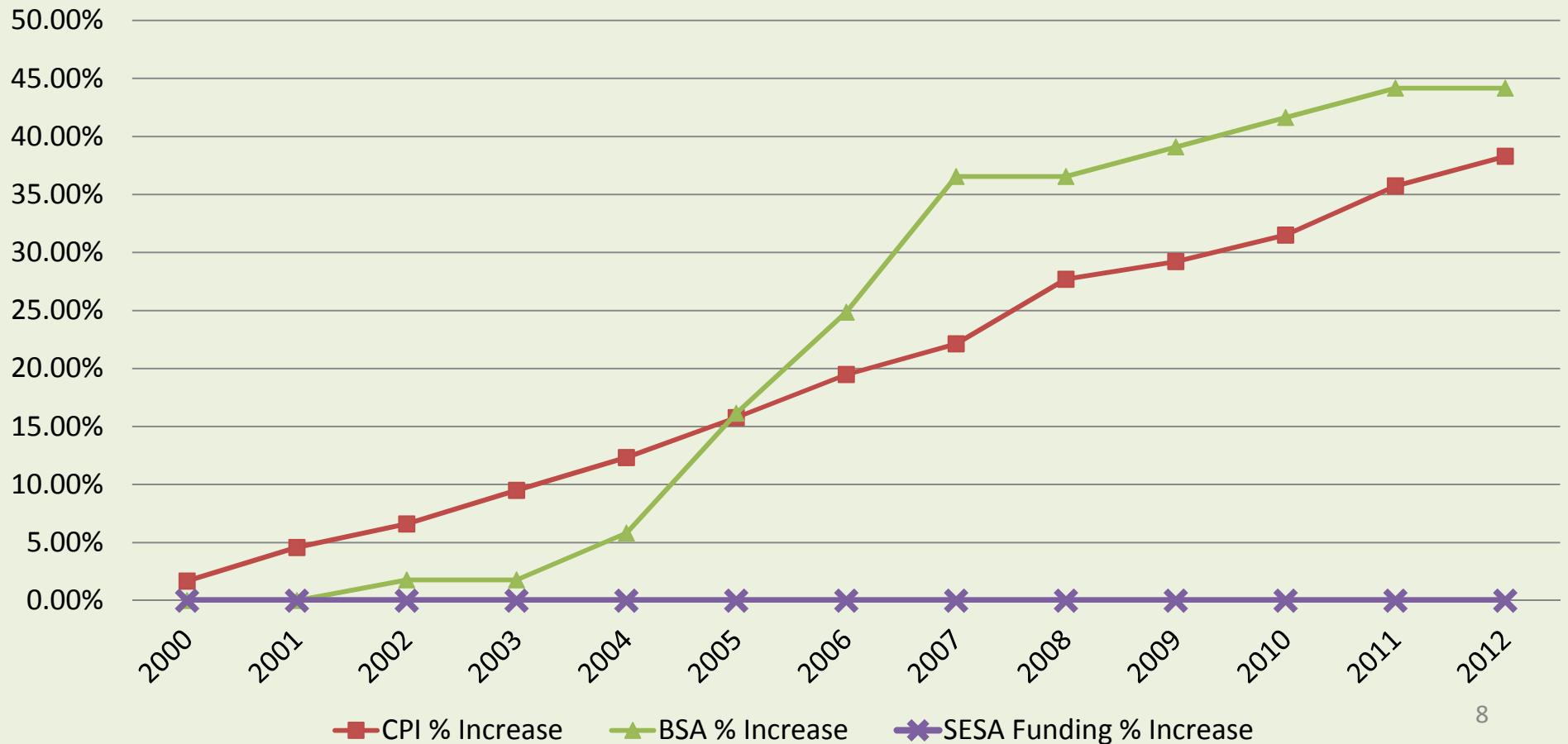
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This chart shows the increase in the Consumer Price Index and Base Student Allocation, with SESA's funding remaining flat.

CPI and BSA Increase vs. SESA Funding





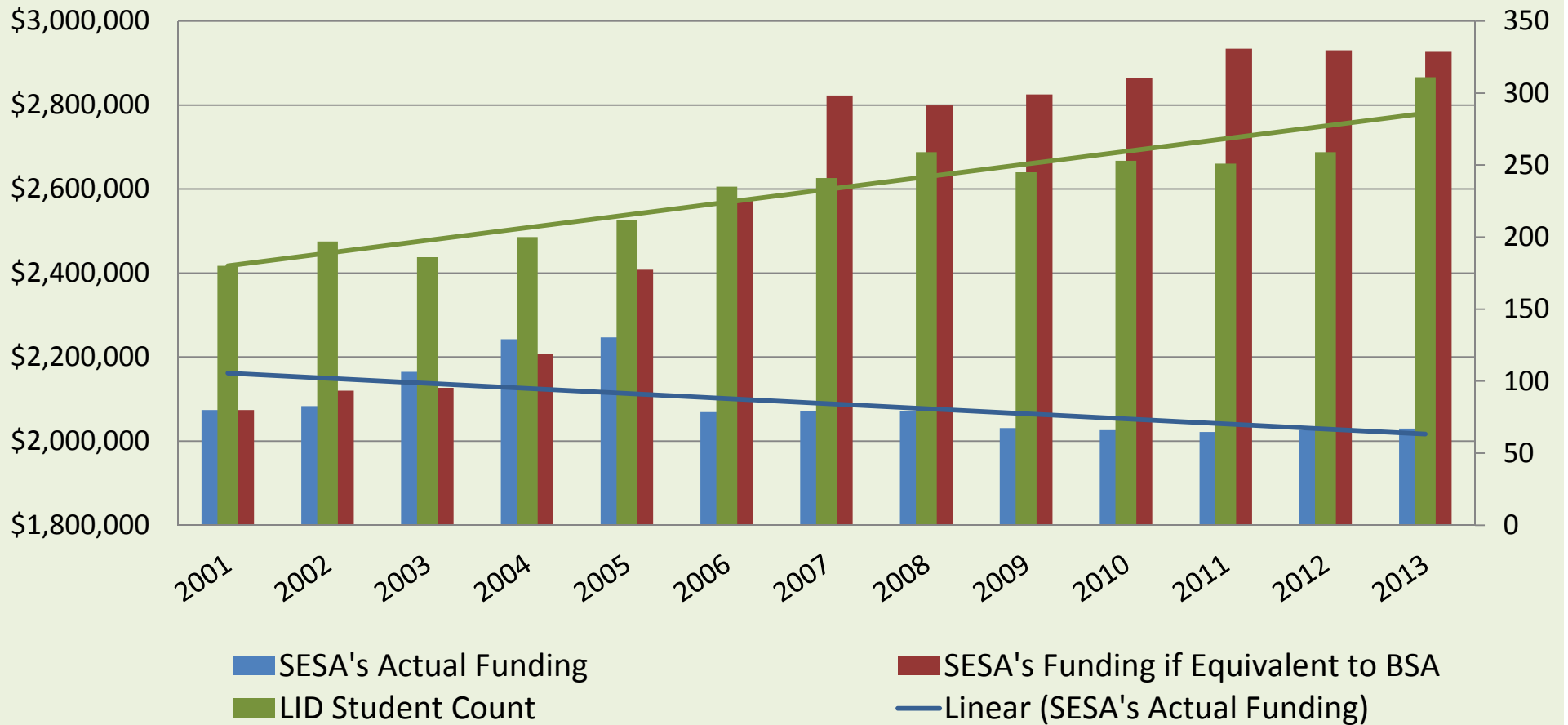
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This graph shows how LID student count has increased while SESA's overall funding has decreased due to decreased ADM.

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



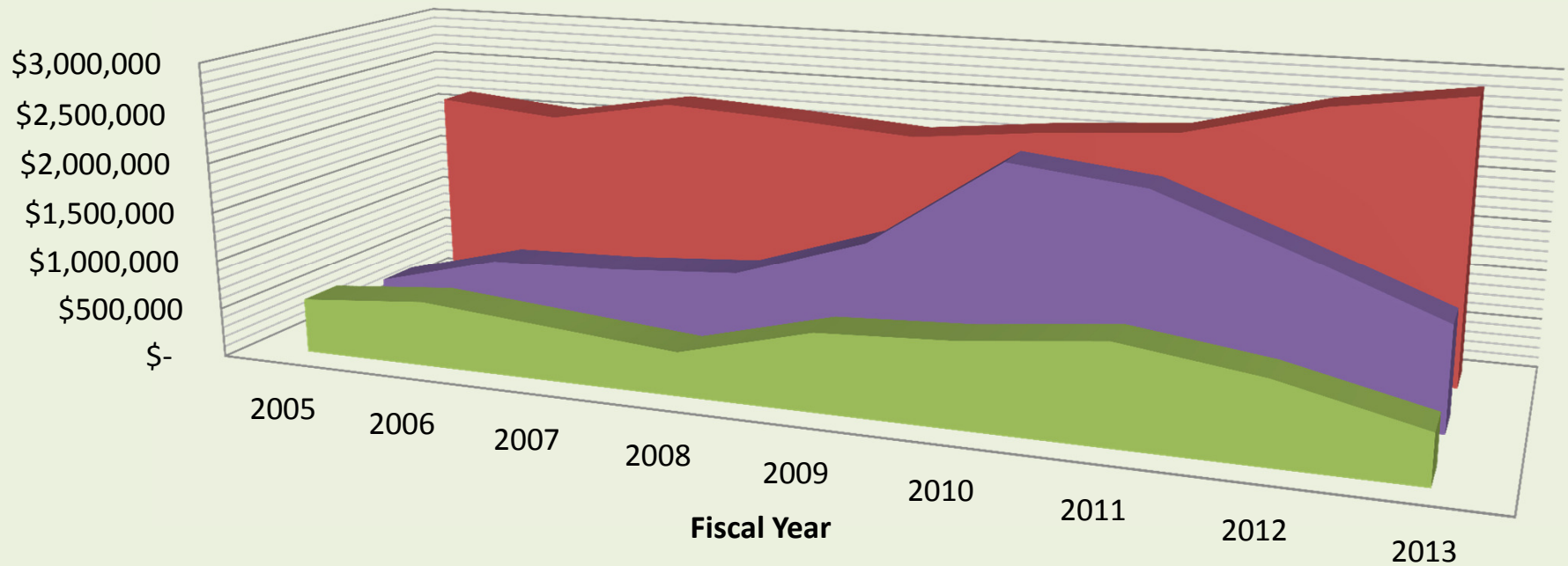


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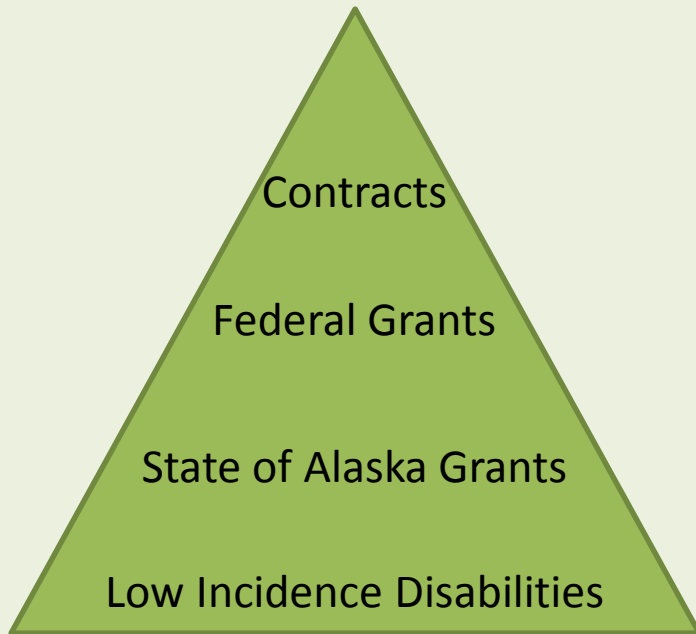
LID Cost of Operations, Fund Balances AND Grant Expenditures FY2005 - FY2013 (9 Years)



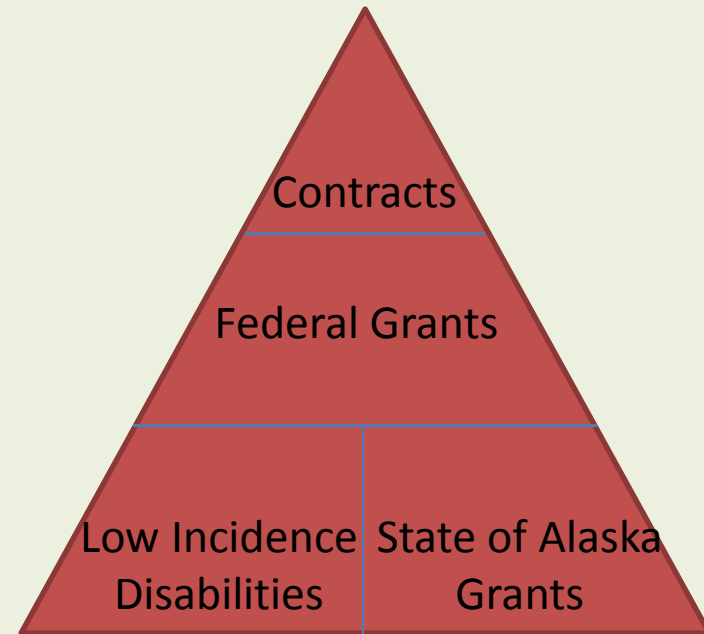
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
■ Fund Balance	\$552,789	\$661,919	\$552,553	\$441,479	\$780,263	\$847,623	\$993,746	\$810,268	\$494,156
■ Total Grant Expenditures	\$400,708	\$734,390	\$775,280	\$864,373	\$1,301,67	\$2,211,11	\$2,064,41	\$1,563,96	\$1,038,10
■ LID Cost of Operations	\$2,140,88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



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Impact of Continued Under-Funding:

1. Reduced ability to promote **evidenced based practices**.
2. Fewer on-site visits to provide **targeted interventions**.
3. **Shorter visits** to maximize travel dollars to include more sites.
4. Less time for classroom observation and **program enhancement**.
5. Loss of **guidance to new special education teachers** and to classroom teachers encountering unique disabilities.
6. Loss of child specific educational intervention **strategies modeled on-site** to teachers.
7. Reduced ability to **recruit & retain quality specialists**.



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Please support SB 17,
extending the sunset for and fully funding SESA.