

C. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING IN YOUR STATE: KEY QUESTIONS AND VARIABLES

- 1. What is the legal status (e.g., own LEA, part of an existing LEA, or a hybrid) of charter schools for purposes of special education?**
 - What is their “linkage” to a local district or LEA for purposes of accessing federal, state, and local funds and providing special education and related services?
 - If a charter school operates as part of an LEA, what is the LEA’s responsibility on special education, and what responsibility does the school have?
 - If the school operates as part of an LEA, how does the district quantify the value of the special education and related services it provides to the school?
- 2. How do charter schools in your state receive federal, state, and local funds?**
 - Do they have access to the same federal, state, and local dollars as other public schools?
 - What formula does your state use to distribute IDEA Part B and C funds?
 - What formula does your state use to distribute and reimburse state dollars?
 - Does your state fund preschool, and if so, how do charter schools access these dollars?
 - Does your state have a means to subsidize the cost of educating students with extraordinary special education needs (e.g., risk pools, high-cost aid)?
 - How do you access Medicaid reimbursement for qualified special education services?
 - If your state has a formula to reimburse schools for extraordinary costs, how do charter schools access these funds?
- 3. How do charter schools in your state submit data regarding special education enrollment and service provision?**
 - Who in a school is responsible for submitting data regarding special education enrollment and provision of services?
 - Does the school have a system to verify that data being reported is accurate (e.g., one staff member enters data and a second staff member verifies accuracy)?
 - Do district and state data reports accurately reflect the enrollment data specific to students with disabilities at the school?
 - If published reports regarding the school’s enrollment are not accurate, who do they contact to correct the data?