

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 46****LR 18(06)****An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder****Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:****C "A" (H-430)****S "A" (S-443) to C "A" (H-430)****Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs**

Fiscal Note

Unfunded grant program

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 to a newly created Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program within the Department of Education for the initial start-up costs associated with implementing the grant program established to support postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. The program awards competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop an inclusive higher education plan. Although funding is provided for the initial start-up costs, no funding is included in the bill for the grants to institutions of higher education. The Department of Education has indicated that it will require one Education Specialist III position and related All Other costs to administer the grant program if funding is provided.