IDEA-B State Fiscal Year 2020 Entitlement Allocations and Electronic Grant Application Information

The IDEA-B State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 allocations are now posted on the New Jersey Department of Education’s (NJDOE) Special Education webpage. The Section 611 (Basic 3-21) and Section 619 (Preschool 3-5) awards are distributed on a formula basis to school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, and state agencies. A detailed description of the individual allocation formulas may be found on the allocation tabs of the online grant application. Eligible agencies should use these amounts to plan for the use of the funds. Districts will notice changes in allocations due to various factors, such as available federal funding, the district’s census and poverty factors, and the number of children with disabilities being served. Also be advised that base allocation adjustments may be required during the project period, as per 34 CFR §300.705(b)(2) and §300.816(b).

SFY 2020 IDEA-B Electronic Grant Submission
The SFY 2020 IDEA grant application must be completed in the Electronic Web Enabled Grant System (EWEG), a statewide program designed to provide coordination among all grant applications. The SFY 2020 IDEA application will be available on the EWEG system as of June 7, 2019. The applications are due July 12, 2019. Instructions are provided for each section, within the application. Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/State Agencies that submit their applications in substantially approvable form by the due date may begin to allocate the funds as of July 1, 2019.

Grant Project Period Timelines/Obligation of Funds
The LEAs/State Agencies may obligate these funds beginning July 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated (SFY 2020 through September 30 of the second successive fiscal year SFY 2022). This maximum period includes a 15-month period of initial availability, plus a 12-month period for carryover.

The NJDOE receives the IDEA Section 611 award from the United States Department of Education in separate awards (July 1, 2019 and October 1, 2019), the full allocations for these programs will not be available until October 1, 2019. Therefore, districts should anticipate obligating no more than 14 percent of their SFY 2020 IDEA Basic allocation for activities planned for July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

LEA Determinations/Significant Disproportionality
As in previous years, LEAs will be notified of their annual determination in the online application. Districts identified for significant disproportionality are required to reserve 15 percent of their total allocation (Basic + Preschool x .15) directed to implement Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), according to 34 CFR §300.226. Beginning in the 2019-20 grant year, LEAs identified for significant disproportionality may use the CCEIS funds for:

- Children age 3 through grade 12;
- Children who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services but who need additional academic and behavioral support;
• Children currently identified as needing special education or related services (funds can be used primarily, but not exclusively, for this group); and
• Professional development and educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports.

The activities must address factors and policy, practices or procedures contributing to the significant disproportionality. Please refer to resources available on the Department's website for additional information on CCEIS.

In accordance with guidance issued by the United States Department of Education on April 4, 2019, the state will be utilizing a risk ratio, in conjunction with the previously established standard methodology, to identify those districts with significant disproportionality for the 2019-20 grant year. Moving forward, the state will utilize a risk ratio of 3.0 to identify districts with significant disproportionality. Over the next year, the Department will provide training and technical assistance to those districts identified for significant disproportionality. The training will focus on identifying the root causes for the significant disproportionality, allowable uses of funds and evidence-based practices for improving student outcomes.

LEAs that are not identified for significant disproportionality may still choose to voluntarily reserve 15 percent of their total allocation to implement Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). In contrast to the information set forth above, LEAs that implement CEIS may only serve an identified group of at-risk students in grades K-12 who are not yet eligible for special education and related services. More information on CEIS is available on the Department's website.

For questions regarding the application process, please direct inquiries to your County Supervisor of Child Study, or contact Barbara Haake in the NJDOE’s Office of Fiscal and Data Services at (609) 376-3753.

c:
Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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