



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 7, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services  
Deadline: June 28, 2020

## IDEA-B State Fiscal Year 2021 Entitlement Allocations and Electronic Grant Application Information

The *IDEA-B* State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 allocations will be 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 2021 *IDEA-B* Electronic Grant Submission.**

The SFY 2021 *IDEA* grant application must be completed in the NJDOE's Electronic Web Enabled Grant System (EWEG), a statewide program designed to provide coordination among all grant applications. The SFY 2021 *IDEA* application will be available on the EWEG system as of May 8, 2020. **The applications are due June 28, 2020.** 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, 2020.

### **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 2021 through September 30 of the second successive fiscal year SFY 2023). 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 U.S. Department of Education in separate awards (July 1, 2020 and October 1, 2020); the full allocations for these programs will not be available until October 1, 2020. Therefore, districts should anticipate *obligating* no more than 14 percent of their SFY 2021 *IDEA* Basic allocation for activities planned for July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

### **LEA Determinations/Significant Disproportionality**

In accordance with 34 CFR §300.647, the state will be utilizing a risk ratio to identify those districts with significant disproportionality for the 2020-21 grant year. The NJDOE 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.

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, as per §300.646(d), 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 cannot be used 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. For additional information on CCEIS, please refer to the Significant Disproportionality resources available on the NJDOE's [Special Education webpage](#).

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 NJDOE's [Special Education Resources webpage](#).

For questions regarding the application process, please direct inquiries to your County Special Education Specialist, or contact Barbara Haake in the NJDOE's Office of Fiscal and Data Services at (609) 376-3753 or via email at [barbara.haake@doe.nj.gov](mailto:barbara.haake@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
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