



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 28, 2021  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services  
Deadline: October 1, 2021

## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Electronic Grant Application Information

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, earmarked \$3.03 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant awards as supplemental Federal Fiscal Year 2021 funds. New Jersey received allocations of \$74,068,356 in Section 611 (Basic 3-21) funds, and \$5,794,766 in Section 619 (Preschool 3-5) funds as IDEA grant awards under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP-IDEA).

These funds were provided to state educational agencies and lead agencies to help recover from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and to safely reopen schools and sustain safe operations. ARP-IDEA funds are subject to the same requirements as IDEA, Part B; therefore, per 34 CFR §300.705, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) allocated these funds to school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, and state agencies as supplemental awards using the statewide formula. A detailed description of the allocation formula, as well as the data used for each entity's allocation, may be found under the allocation tabs within both the IDEA, Part B application, as well as the ARP-IDEA grant application in the NJDOE's [Electronic Web Enabled Grant System \(EWEG\)](#).

All ARP-IDEA allocations will be posted on the NJDOE's [Special Education webpage](#).

### ARP-IDEA Electronic Grant Submission

Although these funds are supplemental to IDEA Part B, ARP-IDEA funds need to be tracked independently. Therefore, a separate ARP-IDEA grant application must be completed in the NJDOE's EWEG system. The ARP-IDEA application will be made available in the EWEG system on August 2, 2021. **ARP-IDEA applications are due October 1, 2021.** Instructions are provided for each section within the application. Entities that submit their ARP-IDEA applications in substantially approvable form by the due date may begin to obligate the funds as of July 1, 2021.

NJDOE encourages LEAs to budget these supplemental funds for non-recurring activities as ARP-IDEA is a one-time funding opportunity that will not be available to sustain ongoing activities. NJDOE also reminds LEAs to maintain their state and local expenditures for special education with these funds as the MOE requirements have not been waived.

### Grant Project Period Timelines/Obligation of Funds

Entities may obligate these funds beginning July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023. This maximum period includes a 15-month period of initial availability, plus a 12-month period for carryover.

**LEA Determinations/Significant Disproportionality**

School districts identified in the IDEA Part B application for significant disproportionality in accordance with 34 CFR §300.647 are required to reserve 15 percent of their total allocation (including ARP-IDEA) to implement Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), according to 34 CFR §300.226.

School districts that are not identified for significant disproportionality may still choose to voluntarily reserve 15 percent of their total allocation (including ARP-IDEA) to implement Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS).

**Proportionate Share**

School districts responsible for the provision of services to eligible students with disabilities parentally placed in nonpublic schools are obligated to extend the ARP-IDEA funds to fulfill all requirements under 34 CFR §300.130-300.144 for the same purposes. Proportionate share will automatically be calculated in the ARP-IDEA application.

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 via email at [OFDS@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OFDS@doe.nj.gov).

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group