Date: January 26, 2022
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: School Business Administrators, Directors of Special Education, SEMI Coordinators
From: Kevin Dehmer, Assistant Commissioner
        Division of Finance and Business Services
        Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
        Division of Educational Services
Deadline: See timelines below

Special Education Medicaid Initiative
Fiscal Year 2023 Reimbursement Revenue Projections

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing information regarding the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program, pertinent to the FY2023 budget submission. Specifically, this memo addresses SEMI budget requirements, alternate reimbursement revenue projection requirements, waiver requirements, action plan requirements for districts that did not maximize SEMI participation in FY2021, and SEMI timelines. The NJDOE understands that due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency, many districts failed to meet one or both SEMI program benchmarks. The difficulty of meeting district benchmarks due to the COVID-19 public health emergency will be considered during review of Corrective Action Plans and the sample Corrective Action Plan accounts for such circumstances.

Background
In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3, school districts are required to maximize their participation in the SEMI program and the Fiscal Accountability Regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 contain the requisite SEMI programmatic guidelines and standards. In the coming days, the NJDOE County Offices will provide districts with their individual FY2023 SEMI reimbursement revenue projections and their final SEMI reimbursement revenues achieved for FY2021. This information will help districts monitor their progress, assist in the FY2023 budget submission, and aid in determining if alternate reimbursement revenue projections or waivers should be considered. Please review Attachment A for a sample of how this information is displayed and an explanation of how SEMI reimbursement revenue projections are calculated for New Jersey school districts.

All alternate reimbursement revenue projections, waiver requests, and action plans must be submitted to the NJDOE’s Executive County Superintendent for review and approval in accordance with the timelines below.

SEMI Budget Requirements

In preparing its annual budget submission to the Executive County Superintendent, each district shall recognize as reimbursement revenue no less than 90 percent of their SEMI reimbursement revenue projection provided by the NJDOE. This amount will be entered on line 540, unless the district has received a waiver or submitted an alternate SEMI reimbursement revenue projection that was approved in the “SEMI support doc” by the Executive County Superintendent. See Attachment B for considerations regarding waivers and alternate reimbursement revenue projections.
SEMI Timelines

The SEMI alternate reimbursement revenue projection and the SEMI waiver request must be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent **no later than 45 days prior to the submission of the district’s proposed budget**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c)* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39*. A district may seek approval to use its own projection of SEMI reimbursement revenue upon demonstration that the assumptions used in calculating its projection are more accurate than the projection provided by the NJDOE.

A district may only submit a waiver request if it is projected to have 40 or fewer Medicaid-eligible special education students enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year. The Executive County Superintendent will render a decision within 20 days of receipt of the waiver request. SEMI action plans, if required, must be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent as part of the district’s proposed budget submission.

Note that the due dates for submitting SEMI alternate reimbursement revenue projections, SEMI waivers, and SEMI action plans may be revised to conform with the State Aid notification date that follows the Governor’s State Budget Message, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5(c)*. Please refer to the [2022 School Election and Budget Procedures Calendar](#) for due dates of the proposed budget.

More information on SEMI can be found on the New Jersey Department of the Treasury [State SEMI website](#).

**Contact information**
If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your County Supervisor of Child Study or:

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- Steven Pasternak, NJDOE, (609) 376-9060, [semi@doe.nj.gov](mailto:semi@doe.nj.gov)
- The NJ EDPlan™ Client Support Team, Public Consulting Group, (609) 275-0250, extension 2, [njsemi@pcgus.com](mailto:njsemi@pcgus.com)

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