



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 21, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: July 31, 2023

## IDEA-B State Fiscal Year 2024 Entitlement Allocations and Electronic Grant Application Information

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part-B State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 allocations are posted on the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) [IDEA Allocations webpage](#). Section 611 (Basic 3-21) and Section 619 (Preschool 3-5) awards are distributed on a formula basis to local educational agencies (LEAs) and state agencies. A detailed description of the data used in the individual allocation formulas may be found under the allocation tabs within the online grant application. Eligible agencies should use these amounts to plan for the use of the funds. Additionally, eligible agencies may notice changes in allocations due to various factors including but not limited to, available federal funding, enrollment and poverty factors, and the number of children with disabilities being served. Also, please be advised that base allocation adjustments may be required during the project period, pursuant to 34 CFR §300.705(b)(2) and §300.816(b).

### SFY 2024 IDEA-B Electronic Grant Submission

The SFY 2024 IDEA grant application is now available and must be completed in the NJDOE's Electronic Web Enabled Grant ([EWEG](#)) System. **Applications are due by Monday, July 31, 2023.** Instructions are provided in each section within the application.

### Grant Project Period Timelines/Obligation of Funds

LEAs and state agencies that submit their applications in substantially approvable form by the due date may obligate these funds beginning July 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated. The grant project period for SFY 2024 runs from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, with an additional 12-month period of availability of unexpended funds to be budgeted in the following fiscal year.

The NJDOE receives the IDEA Section 611 award from the United States Department of Education (USED) in two separate awards (July 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023); the full allocations for these programs will not be available until October 1, 2023. Therefore, LEAs should anticipate obligating no more than 14 percent of their SFY 2024 IDEA Basic allocation for activities planned for July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023.

### LEA Determinations/Significant Disproportionality

In accordance with 34 CFR §300.647, the NJDOE utilized a risk ratio to identify LEAs with significant disproportionality for the 2023-2024 grant year and NJDOE is available to provide technical assistance. Annual determinations can be found within the online application on the LEA determinations tab.

LEAs identified for significant disproportionality are required to reserve 15 percent of their total allocation (Basic + Preschool x .15) to implement Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), according to 34 CFR §300.226. Beginning in the 2019-2020 grant year, pursuant to CFR §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 the factors, policies, practices, and/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 Policy and Procedures](#) webpage.

LEAs with two consecutive years with a risk ratio of 3.0 or higher in any category received on the "LEA Determinations" tab within the application, may consider this an early warning notice of risk ratio trend data for the purpose of preemptive planning and intervention. LEAs that are not identified for significant disproportionality may choose to voluntarily reserve 15 percent of their total allocation to implement Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). LEAs that voluntarily choose to implement CEIS activities may only use the funds to serve an identified group of at-risk students in grades K-12 that is not yet eligible for special education and related services, or for professional development. Voluntary CEIS LEAs may not use the funds to serve students currently identified as needing special education and related services.

#### **GEPA 427 Requirement and Assurances- New Requirement**

USED's Office of Special Education Programs (US OSEP) now requires that the subgrantee IDEA, Part-B application includes a description sufficient to meet the requirements of Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). Certification of compliance with this requirement has also been added to the list of assurances found within the SFY 2024 application.

GEPA requires each applicant for funds to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. This provision allows applicants discretion in developing the required description. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. Based on local circumstances, an LEA should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent its students, teachers, etc. from such access or participation in, the Federally-funded project or activity.

#### **ARP-IDEA Reminder**

Lastly, as a reminder, LEAs were allocated a supplemental award from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 during Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, known as ARP-IDEA. These funds were provided to help recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and to safely reopen schools and sustain safe operations. LEAs were encouraged 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. LEAs were not required to submit a new application for the final 12-month period of availability. LEAs may continue to draw down these funds until September 30, 2023; a Final Expenditure Report will be made available in EWEG to close out these funds later this year.

ARP-IDEA funds are subject to the same requirements as IDEA, Part B (including FY2022 Required Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services, or CCEIS). NJDOE also reminds LEAs to maintain state and local expenditures for special education as Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements have not been waived for these funds.

For questions regarding the application process, LEAs should direct inquiries to their respective County Special Education Specialist or contact NJDOE's Office of Fiscal and Data Services at [OFDS@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OFDS@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group