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April 12, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons
State Agency Office of Education Directors
School Business Administrators

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services

SUBJECT: **FY 2017 Entitlement Subgrant Applications – Planning Information**

Over the past six months, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has been working on the development of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act-No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB)*; *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*; and *Carl D. Perkins Act (Perkins)* FY 2017 entitlement subgrant applications. With the reauthorization of *ESEA-NCLB* as the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* and the notification by the United States Department of Education (USED) that the *ESSA* would not be implemented until the 2017-2018 school year, the NJDOE has limited the number of changes to the subgrant applications while awaiting clarification and guidance regarding the new law. The attachment to this memorandum provides current program-specific information and useful resources for each of the three individual entitlement grant programs for FY2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).

Submission of FY 2016 Reports and FY 2017 Applications

The FY 2017 entitlement applications and the FY 2016 final expenditure reports for the *ESEA-NCLB*, *IDEA* and *Perkins* grant programs will be submitted through the Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (EWEG) system. Grantees will continue to access EWEG through the New Jersey Homeroom page at <http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>.

NJDOE has been working with the EWEG vendor to enhance and improve access to the system, such as the new menu selection page that was designed to be more concise. In addition, in the spring of 2016, EWEG will display a new logon page that will be more user-friendly and highlight important information and notifications.

Entitlement Grant Allocations

NJDOE program offices and the Office of Grants Management have been working together on the FY 2017 *ESEA-NCLB*, *IDEA Basic* and *IDEA Preschool*, and *Perkins Secondary* and *Perkins Post Secondary* grant allocations. For FY 2017 budget planning purposes, LEAs should conservatively anticipate projected allocations of 85 percent of the FY 2016 allocations for each grant program. It is anticipated that the FY 2017 Allocation Notices with the actual allocations for the entitlement grant programs will be released in mid-late May 2016.

FY 2017 Entitlement Grant Application Availability

The NJDOE anticipates the release of the FY 2017 *IDEA* and *ESEA-NCLB* consolidated formula subgrant applications in late May. The release of the *Perkins Secondary* and *Post Secondary* applications will occur in two phases: Phase 1, the program portion of the application is expected to be released in late April; and Phase 2, the budget portion is expected to be released in late May to early June. The NJDOE will provide a series of training opportunities to help facilitate application completion, including county work sessions and webinars. Specific information regarding these training opportunities, as well as the actual availability of the FY 2017 entitlement grant applications, will be disseminated at a later date.

The NJDOE acknowledges your continued efforts to effectively coordinate these programs with other federal and state programs as you continue your work to ensure that all New Jersey students will graduate college and career ready.

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Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education

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Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers

Executive County Business Officials

County Education Specialists

County Supervisors of Child Study

Garden State Coalition of Schools

NJ LEE Group

Entitlement Grant Program Information and Resources

In order to remain as consistent as possible with FY 2016, for FY 2017 the NJDOE has made only those changes that are absolutely necessary in the application.

ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Grant Applications:

A key change is the new “Indirect Cost/Admin Cost” tab in the Budget page. This new tab consolidates indirect costs and administrative costs into one tab to simplify the calculation and reporting of these costs for the district.

IDEA Grant Applications:

The key changes include a New Excess Cost Sample, and an enhancement of the IDEA Assurances.

Perkins Grant Applications:

The FY 2017 *Perkins* Grant Applications will be substantially different compared to the 2016 applications. Some key changes include the following:

- The *Perkins Secondary and Post Secondary* application will be released and submitted in two phases to support an earlier review of the program and ultimately earlier approvals. Phase 1 will be the program planning phase, and Phase 2 will be the budget phase. The FY 2017 *Perkins* Grant allocations will not be available by Phase 1 of the application process. However, for program planning purposes LEAs should project 85% of their FY 2016 allocations, as noted previously. The FY 2017 *Perkins* Grant allocations will be available for Phase 2 of the application process.
- LEAs will be required to complete and upload a Program Budget Narrative form in Phase 1. The Program Budget Narrative form, which will be pre-populated with the LEA performance in the *Perkins* required performance indicators, will be accessible to LEAs through NJ Homeroom. LEAs will be notified when the Program Budget Narrative forms are available.
- The Academic Attainment indicators for Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics will not be included in the performance data provided for the *Perkins Secondary* application, and LEAs will not be required to use Perkins funds to address these indicators in the FY 2017 *Perkins Secondary* application.

Detailed information regarding the FY 2017 *Perkins Secondary and Post-Secondary Grant* Application will be posted on the *Perkins* grant-related information website available at <http://nj.gov/education/cte/perkins/>.

Resources for Additional Information:

To assist LEAs in the development of well-considered implementation plans that support the appropriate grant program, updated program-specific planning materials and additional information regarding the FY 2017 entitlement grant programs and their requirements may be found at the following NJDOE website links:

- ***ESEA-NCLB Grant Programs*** –
 - Title I, Part A information: <http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/grants/>
 - Income Eligibility Guidelines: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>
 - Title I, Part D information: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/entitlement/nclb>
 - Title II, Part A information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/entitlement/nclb/>
 - Title III information:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/title3/spending.htm>.
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/title3/nonpublic.htm>
 - Title III Immigrant information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/title3/>
 - Title VI information:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/nclb/programs/title6pbs1.htm>
- ***IDEA Grant Program*** information: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/fund/>
- ***Perkins Grant Program*** information: <http://nj.gov/education/cte/perkins/>
- ***Transitioning to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) FAQs regarding Title I, Title II and Title III:*** <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/faq/essa-faqs.pdf>