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Bureau of Special Education Support FY'24 Memo #1

Date: July 17, 2023

To: Superintendents of Schools  
Administrators of Special Education

From: Office of the Commissioner of Education

Division of Learner Support  
Bureau of Special Education Support

Re: Special Education Aid 21–22-year-olds (SPED AID-22)

RSA 186-C:2, I Child with a Disability ages 3-21

ELIGIBILITY FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AID for students ages 21 to 22

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Student Support, is offering guidance to districts for the 2022-2023 Special Education Aid (SPED Aid) for 21-year-olds. The guidance includes eligibility for:

- Qualifying for SPED AID
- Calculating SPED Aid Payments
- Timelines for SPED AID

For the 2022-2023 school year, department of education shall be liable for all school district's allowable costs related to providing services to special education students over age 21 until their 22nd birthday.

The department shall provide reimbursement to a school district for any such costs, which were not otherwise compensated by other forms of state education aid.

Qualify:

- To qualify, those students who turned 21 during the 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 school year and were entitled to an additional year of supports in 2022-2023 up to their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday as determined by the IEP team.

Funds for Special Education Aid – 22-year-olds (**Sped Aid – 22**) will be processed the same way Special Education Aid is processed. The student's invoices will be reviewed August through December. Special Education Aid payment will be processed prior to January 1, 2024

- While the system calculates if you have met CAP, this will not apply for Sped Aid – 22. The student will not be required to meet CAP for the district to be reimbursed.
- You should have been entering invoices as normal for students in NHSEIS.
- The one change in the process is that you will need to fill out a separate Superintendent Verification Form as we need to process payments differently on our end.
- We will check the student's birthdate and verify the qualifying dates for each student. For example:
  - If the student's birthdate was May 3, 2022, they would qualify for funds from July 1, 2022, to May 2, 2023.
  - If the student's birthdate was September 3, 2022, the district is responsible for costs July 1, 2022, to September 2, 2022. The state will reimburse all allowable costs from September 3, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

### **Calculating Payments**

The NHED will verify the amount of expenses submitted by the district for a qualifying individual. Based on age and expenses we will calculate the maximum amount the district is eligible for using the guidelines from HB1513 and SB 394.

### **Expenses:**

The NHED will subtract:

- Any state aid for students with disabilities will be subtracted from expenses. This includes adequacy aid.
- Any remaining unexpended funds from your 2022 IDEA funds.
- Any remaining unexpended funds from your 2022 IDEA ARP.

For example:

Student costs		100,000
Adequacy Aid	minus	2,000
2022 IDEA funds	minus	5,000
2022 IDEA ARP funds	minus	5,000
= total reimbursement		88,000

This is the amount that will be reimbursed to the school district for this qualifying individual.

### **Special Education Aid Timeline**

A district must complete an application for SPED AID and adhere to the following timelines:

- Districts should be entering Special Education Aid data into NHSEIS monthly. The NHED is available to assist districts throughout the year in the SPED AID process.
- By **July 31st** of each year--Deadline for districts to have entered SPED AID data into NHSEIS. Submit transportation, exceptional costs and all other documentation mentioned above to the NHED, along with a screen print of the NHSEIS financial summary page.
- By August 15th -- Districts will create a list of all students for which they are applying for SPED Aid -22 and complete the Superintendent's Verification of Special Education Aid form and submit to the NHED.

If you have any questions, please email [cathleen.m.krammes@doe.nh.gov](mailto:cathleen.m.krammes@doe.nh.gov).