ANNUAL REQUEST FOR FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY24)

INSTRUCTIONS

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004 (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)



New Hampshire State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education Support 25 Hall Street Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3860603-603-271-3741

Table of Contents

IntroductionIntroduction		
IDEA Grant Availability	3	
Permissive Use of Funds	4	
Accessing the NHDOE Grants Management System	5	
Signing In to the Grants Management System	5	
Accessing your applications	5	
Choosing a District Application	6	
Starting your IDEA and Preschool Grants	7	
Project Date and Contact Section	7	
Allocations	8	
Activities	8	
Categories	10	
Priorities	10	
State and Federal Priorities, Based on the Special Education State Performance Plan	11	
Budget Information	13	
Fields and their Functions in the Grant Management System	14	
Using IDEA funds for Coordinated Early Intervening Services(CEIS & CCEIS)	17	
Attachments	19	

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide instructions to Districts/Local Education Agency (LEAs) on how to access the Grants Management System (GMS), and how to work within the system to request IDEA Part B Section 611 & Preschool 619 (IDEA grant) funds, including guidance on required attachments (including assurances).

In addition to this instruction document, the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Student Support (Bureau) also provides in-person training on using the GMS.

These instructions are sent out annually to LEA superintendents, special education directors and business administrators as a Bureau memorandum, which may be accessed on the Bureau home page under Memorandums.

To request IDEA grant funds, LEAs must apply for the funds annually. This application will be reviewed and approved by the Bureau. Once the application is submitted and approved LEAs may begin spending down their funds, which will need to be reported back to the Bureau through the GMS. Once the LEA has followed the reporting process, the funds can be reimbursed.

The application is an online process, which requires activities and assurances through the "MyNHDOE Single Sign On System" (https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE). For access to this system please contact your i4see coordinator.

IDEA Grant Availability

A new IDEA grant award is allocated to LEAs each year. Each "annual" award is for a twelve month period; however, regulations exist to extend the amount of time that is available for an LEA to obligate the single year's IDEA award

The first extension of funds (called Forward Funding) happens before the award begins. During this three month period (July 1 – September 30) states are allowed to award the funds to the LEA's prior to federal fiscal year, and LEA's are allowed to allocate funds during this time.

Followed by the 'official' twelve months of grant availability which follows the federal fiscal year(October 1 – September 30).

Additionally, LEAs have more time to spend the federal funds they received in the previous FY grant award as the laws have provisions that allows LEAs to continue to obligate, for **one additional year**, any Federal education funds that were not obligated in the period for which they were awarded. (34 CFR 76.709(a), 20 U.S.C. §1225(b)(1)) Including the forward-funded time period and the additional year, LEAs have up to 27 months to obligate a single year's grant award.

LEAs are encouraged to spend down the previous fiscal year's funds (to the greatest extent possible) before accessing the next fiscal year's funds as <u>any funds that are unspent by the end of the grant period will be returned to the federal government.</u>

Permissive Use of Funds

The Bureau has provided a document titled "Permissive Use of Funds" to assist LEAs. This is the language found in IDEA relative to grant funds per §300.208, which states that the following categories are permitted:

- 1) Services and aids that also benefit nondisabled children. For the costs of special education and related services, and supplementary aids and services, provided in a regular class or other education-related setting to a child with a disability in accordance with the IEP of the child, even if one or more nondisabled children benefit from these services.
- (2) <u>Early intervening services</u>. To develop and implement coordinated, early intervening educational services in accordance with §300.226.
- (3) <u>High cost special education and related services.</u> To establish and implement cost or risk sharing funds, consortia, or cooperatives for the LEA itself, or for LEAs working in a consortium of which the LEA is a part, to pay for high cost special education and related services.
- (b) <u>Administrative case management.</u> An LEA may use funds received under Part B of the Act to purchase appropriate technology for recordkeeping, data collection, and related case management activities of teachers and related services personnel providing services described in the IEP of children with disabilities that is needed for the implementation of those case management activities.

For more information, please refer to the NH Permissive Use of Funds and Activities document on the Bureau's web page under <u>IDEA Federal Funds</u>:

https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-student-support/special-education/idea-federal-funds

Accessing the NHDOE Grants Management System

Signing In to the Grants Management System

The Grants Management System (GMS) is the database used to maintain each district's Federal grants. To work within the GMS and access the application(s) for their LEA/SAU, users are required to have a Single-Sign-On (SSO) account and permissions (see Figure 1). The LEA's i4See coordinator is the individual responsible for providing users with login permissions. Once a user has the appropriate permissions they become an authorized user and the GMS may be accessed using the following link: https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx



Figure 1 Login for the Grants Management System (GMS)

Accessing your applications

Upon logging in the icon to the "Grants Management System" will be visible. Click on this to bring up the LEA/SAU screen (see Figure 2).



Figure 2 LEA/SAU screen in the GMS

This link will provide access to the LEA's applications to the authorized user (see Figure 3).

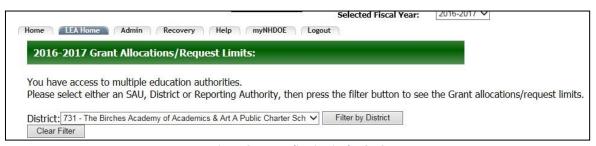


Figure 3 LEA application in the GMS

Choosing a District Application

Once the list of LEAs is visible, click on the green arrow next to the application (see Figure 4). When the application opens up, select the appropriate fiscal year in the top right section of the screen – for example, 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 (see Figure 5).

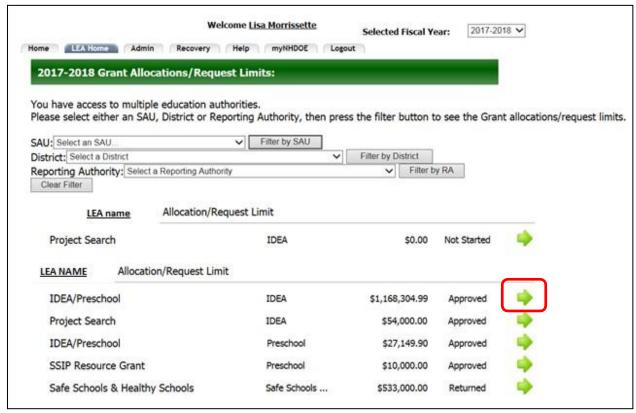


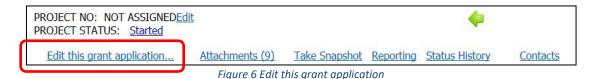
Figure 4 Choosing a district application



Figure 5 Select grant year from this dropdown

Starting your IDEA and Preschool Grants

Next, click on the "Edit this grant application..." link on the left portion of the application (see Figure 5). This will open up the Project Dates and Contact section (see Figure 6)



Project Date and Contact Section

In the GMS, applications are known as "projects". For establishing a project date, use the calendar icons to select the start and end dates of the grant (see Figure 7).

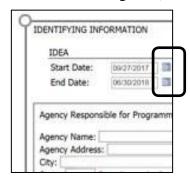


Figure 7 Application in the GMS

NOTE: the Bureau is unable to approve a start date that is prior to the date the application is submitted. Additionally, IDEA grants may not have a start date prior to July 1st since IDEA funds are provided to the state as of July 1st.

In the Contact section (see Figure 8) complete all of the information requested: District name, Address, Project Manager and Fiscal Contact. Only individuals listed in this section will be contacted by the Bureau and will also receive automated emails from the GMS. Information regarding the IDEA grant will only be discussed with individuals identified in this section as contacts. When appropriate enter an alternative contact. Click on SAVE.

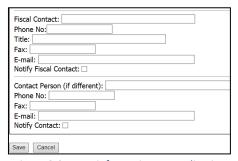


Figure 8 Contact information on application

Allocations

On the top of this page will be the LEA /SAU allocations for the IDEA grant (see Figure 9). After the IDEA grant is approved and the LEA begins budgeting and paying for grant activities, the amounts in the "budgeted" and "paid" boxes will change. The request limit will remain the same.

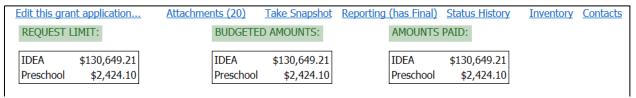


Figure 9 Allocations in GMS

Activities

Scrolling down the page brings you to the Activity and Budget section (see Figure 10). To begin a new activity, click on the CLICK HERE TO ADD NEW ACTIVITY link.

```
Activities Entered: 4 <u>Click HERE to add a new activity...</u>
Sort Actvities By: Activity ID <u>Update Date Category Priority</u>
```

Figure 10 Activity and Budget Section in GMS

This link gives access to the Narrative section (see Figure 11). The information that is included here is just the activity description – the budget information will be added in the next step. The narrative section also has fields for a category and priorities for each activity (see category and priorities section on the next page).

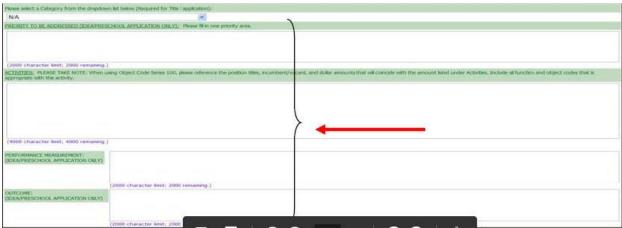


Figure 11 Entering a new Activity

When the entry is complete click on the SAVE ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION and the completed activity will be displayed. To edit an activity, click on the "edit" link.

The description of activities must state how the activity benefits students with disabilities and how the activity will be implemented to support the priority.

PLEASE NOTE that while it is possible to request IDEA grant funds from both IDEA Part B Section 611 and Preschool Section 619 funding sources in one activity, it is not required that you do so. When an activity is funded by both sources of funds, it is critical that the Priority and Activity narrative are consistent with the permissive use of funds for the proportion of funds being used.

In general the description of *Activities* allows the applicant to request funds from both federal funding sources to support specific activities that benefit children with disabilities. All the activities which will be implemented to support the *Priority* described at the top of the activity section must be listed separately. In the section below indicate the Function Code, the Description, the Object Code which will identify these activities in the federal ledgers. Please work closely with the Business Administrator to ensure appropriate function/object codes are identified. In the last two columns, indicate the amount of funds to be allocated to each activity from each of the funding sources.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT: (Leave this section blank.)

OUTCOME: (Leave this section blank.)

Note: It is recommended that, when attaching additional documentation relevant to an activity to the grant that you include the activity number in the name of the attachment.

Categories

Each activity must have a designated category. The category of "NA" is the default selection for each activity. The LEA must select CEIS, CCEIS, Parentally Placed, School Aged Tuition, or Indirect when the activity addresses these areas.

The categories are:

- 1) <u>N/A</u>- (used when not an activity relative to Coordinated Early Intervening Services or Parentally Placed)
- <u>CEIS</u> Used for Coordinated Early Intervening Services See section on Using IDEA funds for Coordinated Early Intervening Services for additional requirements.
- 3) <u>CCEIS</u> Used for Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services. Only districts identified with Significant Disproportionality will use this category.
- 4) <u>Parentally Placed</u> used when activity references the proportional share calculation relative to students placed by their parents in private/non-public schools
- 5) **School Age Tuition** used when activity is for tuition for a school aged student.
 - Activity must include student's SASID and the name of the approved special education program as it appears in NHSEIS.
- 6) **Indirect** must be used when activity references the districts indirect costs

Priorities

The priorities may be chosen based on the Special Education State Performance Plan (See the State and Federal Priorities, based on the Special Education State Performance Plan section below)

The priorities section refers to the focus that will be targeted by the activities. When determining one or more priorities, consider the needs of students with disabilities in your LEA, especially needs that have been identified through the state-to-local monitoring process, systemic issues identified through dispute resolution, corrective actions, or other data relative to the New Hampshire Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. These identified needs should then be aligned to the state and federal priorities.

If more than one priority area is selected that is strongly connected to one another (for example, a specific activities geared to both prevent drop-out and to increase high school graduation rates as two interconnected priority areas) then they may be listed in one activity. However, if the project will address multiple but diverse priority areas (such as a focus on early transitions with some of the funds and another on drop-out with additional funds), then those priorities must be listed in separate activities.

Priorities for IDEA Section 611 funds include children ages 3 to 21. Priorities for IDEA Section 619 funds include children ALREADY identified with a disability ages 3 through 5 only. Section 619 funds may not be used for evaluation and child find activities. Please see below for state and federal priorities based on the Special Education StatePerformance Plan. They are the recommended priority areas for your application.

State and Federal Priorities, Based on the Special Education State Performance Plan

 $\frac{https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-student-support/special-education/performance-plans$

High School Graduation

Increase the percent of youth with IEPs graduating from high school with a regular diploma compared to percent of all youth graduating with a regular diploma.

Drop Out Reduction

Reduce the percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school compared to the percent of all youth dropping out of high school.

Statewide Assessment

Increase participation or proficiency rate of children with disabilities on statewide assessments.

Suspension and Expulsion

Reduce the discrepancy in the rates of suspensions and expulsions for greater than 10 days in a school year or by race and ethnicity;

School-Age Least Restrictive Environment

Increase the percent of children with IEPs aged 6 through 21 educated with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

Preschool Least Restrictive Environment

Increase the percent of preschool children with IEPs who receive special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers (e.g., early childhood settings, home, and part-time early childhood/part-time early childhood special education settings).

Preschool Outcomes

Increase the percent of preschool children with IEPs who demonstrate improved outcomes in the following areas:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication and early literacy); and
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

Parent Involvement

Increase the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

Disproportionality

Zero percent disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification.

Zero percent disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification.

Evaluation (Section 611 funds ONLY)

100% of children with parental consent to evaluate will be evaluated and eligibility determined within state established timeline of 45 days.

Early Transition

100% of children referred by Family-Centered Early Supports & Services (Part C of IDEA) prior to age 3, who are found eligible for special education (Part B of IDEA), have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays.

Secondary Transition

100% of youth aged 16 and above have an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals.

Post School Outcomes

Increase the percent of youth who had IEPs, are no longer in secondary school and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school.

Other

LEAs may select a priority based on locally identified needs. If you do not select one of the above priorities, please write "other" in the priority box and provide a brief description of the priority you have selected.

Budget Information

To enter the budget information for an activity, use the dropdown lists for the proper function and object codes, and key in the amount for each line item (see Figure 12). The data entered will be locked in when the Bureau approves of the application. This data will be used to populate the reports of expenditures that are required every month. Reporting is covered in the next section of these instructions.

NOTE – once a line item is created, it cannot be deleted; this history is maintained for audit purposes. The line item can, however, be edited by zeroing or reducing the amount and creating a new line item.

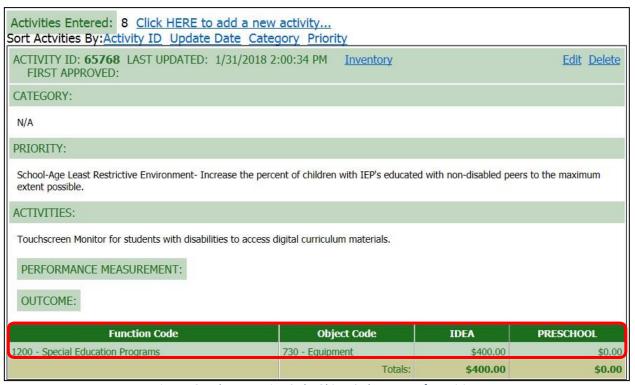


Figure 12 Budget: Function Code, Object Code, Amount for activity

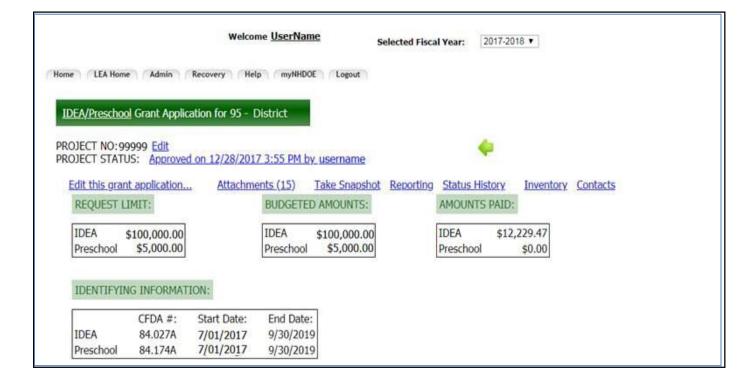
Fields and their Functions in the Grant Management System

(screenshot of LEA page follows)

- 1) **Selected Fiscal Year**: This section identifies the fiscal year of the IDEA grant.
- 2) **Project Number**: This 5 digit number is issued by the Bureau once the completed application is approved.
- 3) **Project Status**: This section identifies the status of the application:
 - <u>Not Started</u>: The money has been allocated and the IDEA grant has not been accessed by the LEA.
 - <u>Started</u>: The IDEA grant has been accessed by the LEA but not moved forward to "Ready for Local Authorized Signature".
 - Ready for Local Authorized Signature: The LEA is waiting for the Superintendent's approval to move the IDEA grant forward to the Bureau. (PLEASE NOTE: When the grant is in this status, only the Superintendent or another with permissions in the district can return the grant to the person who would like to further edit the grant. The Bureau does not have the ability to do so in this status.)
 - <u>Submitted</u>: The LEA has sent the IDEA grant to the Bureau for approval. If changes are needed to be made in the LEA, the LEA must reach out to their contact at the Bureau to have the grant returned. (*PLEASE NOTE: The Bureau will return the grant to you; however, you may want to have the grant approved in the status it is in, and then ask that the grant be returned. Your decision should be determined based on the start of the activities in the grant. Activities should not be started and cannot be reimbursed without the approval of the Bureau. In that case, the LEA would be responsible for the expense.)*
 - <u>Returned</u>: In this status, the IDEA grant is under the control of the LEA. The LEA can look at the Status History to find out information about the grants return or other information from the person that returned the grant at the Bureau.
 - <u>In Review</u>: By the Bureau of Student Support. Can be used by reviewer to notify LEA of notes before putting the IDEA grant into Substantially Approved.
 - <u>Substantially Approved</u>: By the Bureau of Student Support staff member assigned to the IDEA grant. The activities have been provisionally approved and the LEA may moveforward with them. The IDEA grant is moved forward to the grants technician for fiscal review (function object codes, indirect cost, etc.)
 - <u>Approved</u>: By the Bureau of Student Support's Grants and Contracts Technician. Everything submitted at this point is approved.
 - <u>Closed</u>: The IDEA grant is completed. All reimbursements have been made. Any un-expended funds will be returned to the federal government.
- 4) Edit this grant application: This link allows the LEA to enter the IDEA and Preschool start and end dates and the Agency Responsible for Programmatic and Fiscal Administration" contact information.

- 5) Attachments: This section allows the LEA to upload IDEA Assurances as attachments. Attachments can be uploaded when the grant is in any status prior to being closed.
- **6) Take Snapshot**: This option allows the LEA to take a picture of the information in the system in its current state. This function can be done no matter what status the grant is in. (NOTE: The Grants Management System automatically takes a snapshot of the grant every time it is approved.)
- 7) **Reporting**: Click the link to work with the reporting features of the grant application.
- 8) Status History: Click the link to view the grant application status history. This is a chronological history of the actions for the grant, including any messages recorded in the system. This page provides a quick reference for districts to refer to any notes from the grant reviewer identifying any necessary information or corrections required for approval.
- 9) Allocation Amounts: These money amounts for IDEA and Preschool are populated by the NHDOE prior to the start of the grant.
- **10**) **Budgeted Amounts**: These amounts are the total of LEA funds budgeted in the activities in the application.
- **11) Amounts Paid**: These amounts had been paid to the district by the NHDOE Office of Business Management.
- **12**) **Identifying Information**: This information includes the start and end date of the grant and other information.
- 13) Project Start and End Dates: These dates should be the anticipated dates services will be provided with federal special education funds. The start date cannot be earlier than the date the request is electronically submitted by the Superintendent to the Department of Education. In no case can this date be earlier than the start of the fiscal year, July 1st. The end date cannot be any later than September 30, 2026. Please indicate Start and End Dates for IDEA Part B Section 611 & Preschool Section 619 when applying for both.

14) Agency Responsible for Programmatic and Fiscal Administration: This section identifies the LEA which will be receiving the federal funds, establishing and maintaining the federal ledgers, hiring or contracting with personnel to provide services, purchasing equipment and materials, tracking activities, and reporting to the Department of Education. The Project Manager is the person designated by the Superintendent as responsible for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the project including approving disbursements of funds. The Project Manager must be an employee of the Agency Responsible for this project. The Superintendent and the Project Manager may assign the role of Contact Person to another individual who is also an employee of the Agency responsible for this project. If the project will be administered on a daily basis by another agency on behalf of the LEA which has primary responsibility for project administration, the contractor must be identified in the second block in this section.



Using IDEA funds for Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS & CCEIS)

Coordinated Early Intervening Services falls into two categories. Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) is the regulation under which LEAs can choose to use a portion of their IDEA Part B funds for a defined group of at-risk students who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services. Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) is the regulation under which LEAs identified as having significant disproportionality are mandated to use a portion of their IDEA Part B funds.

If the LEA chooses to, or is mandated to, spend a portion of its IDEA Part B funds on Coordinated Early Intervening Services, they must complete a separate activity and select the "COORDINATED EARLY INTERVENING SERVICES" category for that activity.

Please see the below chart for a comparison of Mandatory Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) and Voluntary Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) released by the IDEA Data Center including permitted activities and reporting requirements.

Element	Coordinated Early Intervening	Comprehensive Coordinated
	Services	Early Intervening Services
Abbreviations	CEIS	CCEIS
Regulations	34 CFR 300.226	34 CFR 300.646
Туре	Voluntary – LEAs can choose to use a portion of their IDEA Part B funds for services to a defined group of at- risk students	Mandatory – LEAs identified as having significant disproportionality in identification, placement, and/or disciplinary removals must use IDEA Part B funds for CCEIS
Grade level/ ages served	Kindergarten through grade 12	Age 3 through grade 12
Groups served	Only children who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services	Children who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. Children currently identified as needing special education or related services (funds can be used primarily, but not exclusively, for this group)
Funds	Up to 15 percent of IDEA Part B funds (611 and 619)	Exactly 15 percent of Par B funds (611 and 619)

Element	Coordinated Early Intervening	Comprehensive Coordinated
Permitted Activities	Professional development for teachers and other school staff to enable such personnel to deliver scientifically based academic and behavioral interventions, including scientifically based literacy instruction and, where appropriate, instruction on the use of adaptive and instructional software.	Professional development and educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports. The activities must address factors and policy, practice, or procedure contributing to significant disproportionality
	Educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction	
Reporting requirements	An LEA is required to report to the state and the state is required to report to the U.S. Department of Education the following: • The number of children served under this section who received early intervening services; and • The number of children served under this section who received early intervening services and subsequently received special education and related services under Part B of IDEA during the preceding 2-year period	An LEA is required to publicly report on the revision of policies, practices, and procedures. Additional reporting requirements to be determined by OSEP at a future date.

Attachments

The following are attachments to be uploaded to the IDEA/Preschool Grant Attachments page in GMS with the submission of the IDEA and Preschool grants. Instructions are included with each form. Please contact the Bureau grant reviewer with any questions. These documents may be found on the Bureau's web page under IDEA Federal Funds:

https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-learner-support/bureau-of-student-support/special-education/idea-federal-funds

1) Children With Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools 34 CFR 300.133(3)(c) Expenditures Form (Equitable Services) -This is a required form for all LEAs to indicate if there are non-profit, private (approved nonpublic) schools within the LEA. (If you are unsure as to whether or not there is a nonpublic non-profit school in your LEA, please follow the link on pageone of the form to view the current approved list on nonpublic schools.) For LEAs that do not have non-profit, private (approved nonpublic) schools within their boundaries, simply list your LEA and Fiscal Year on the "Children with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools" form. For those LEAs with non-profit, private (approved nonpublic) schools within their boundaries, check "yes" and complete this form fully. Part I of the forms asks LEAs to provide written affirmation of timely and meaningful consultation as required in 34 CFR 300.135. If LEAs are unable to attain written affirmation of consultation, please attach the documentation of attempts to do so.

Part II of the form reminds LEAs to utilize the prior year's unexpended funds prior to utilizing the current year's funds as funds are no longer carried over into the current year's grant. Please note that LEAs must obligate the remaining unexpended proportional share funds for a period of one additional year.

Part III of the form assists LEAs in determining the proportional share of IDEA funds that they are required to make available for parentally placed children with disabilities. The proportional share amount calculated must also be included in a grant activity identified as "Parentally-Placed" through which this amount is allocated to fund the services that the LEAs determine will be provided to eligible parentally-placed private school children with disabilities.

- 2) <u>Excess Cost Calculator Tool</u>- This is a required calculation for all LEAs in determining excess costs of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities.
- 3) <u>LEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Calculator</u>- This is a required calculation for all LEAs to determine if their fiscal effort meets the IDEA's LEA MOE requirement (34 CFR §300.203), which stipulates that every LEA must budget and expend at least the same amount of funds for the education of children with disabilities as the LEA spent in previous years. This may be done before July 1st. Instructions can be found within the calculator as well as in the following documents found on the Bureau's IDEA Federal Funds web page:
 - Local Education Agency (LEA) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Calculator: Instructions
 - LEA MOE Calculator Instructions At a Glance