


Connecticut State Department of Education

Division of Educational Programs and Services
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
Telephone: (860) 638-4000
FAX: (860) 632-1854

TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services
Directors of Private Approved Special Education Facilities
Directors of Charter Schools

FROM: Leslie M. Averna, Associate Commissioner 
Division of Educational Programs and Services

DATE: March 30, 1998

SUBJECT: Update #10

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the recent Leadership Forum; I enjoyed our time together and appreciated your constructive feedback and commentary.

This update will be short and to the point – it's almost time for us to send you the IDEA consolidated application and I'd like to prepare you for the changes contained therein. I'm also enclosing the final copy of the State Board of Education documents, *Report on Special Education and Related Services* and *Connecticut Agenda for Improving Education Services to All Students, Particularly Students Eligible for Special Education and Related Services*, both of which are available on the State Department of Education Website at www.state.ct.us/sde/. The Agenda is also available on disk from the Special Education Resource Center upon request. Please call Michelle LeBrun-Griffin at 860-632-1485 ext. 21. We hope you are having a good spring.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO FY 1998-99 IDEA-PART B, SECTION 611 AND/OR SECTION 619 APPLICATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY (1) CONGRESSIONAL REAUTHORIZATION OF THE IDEA AND (2) DECISIONS MADE BY THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CTSDE)

In its last session, the United States Congress reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). President Clinton signed it into law (Public Law 105-17) on June 4, 1997.

Elements of the reauthorized IDEA and decisions made at the CTSDE result in changes which create new options and/or limitations for districts/agencies making applications for IDEA-Part B, Section 611 and Section 619 entitlements in FY 1998-99.

Materials contained in the FY 1998-99 consolidated grant application will include language from Public Law 105-17 which describes each new program option available to eligible districts/agencies. Those descriptions will be found in the "Directions" packet of the consolidated grant application. Forms for the election of one or more of the new options will be found in the "Application" packet of consolidated grant materials. These options will be available to all eligible districts/agencies, for the first time in FY 1998-99, and for all subsequent years.

A summary of changes follows:

A. Changes To IDEA-Part B, Section 611 (grant generated by your 3-21 child count)

For FY 1998-99, eligible districts/agencies will receive Section 611 entitlements based on their December 1997 child counts. This manner of entitlement distribution will change to a different basis in future years.

In FY 1998-99, districts/agencies whose Section 611 entitlements are less than \$7,500 may file their own IDEA-Part B applications. They are no longer mandated to combine their entitlement with another district's/agency's entitlement. However, any number of districts/agencies may still choose to have one district/agency serve as fiscal agent for a multiple-district/agency application.

In FY 1998-99, administrative expenditures (line item 111A) are limited to 10% of a district's/agency's total Section 611 entitlement. Districts/agencies are reminded they must be able, upon audit, to demonstrate that expenditures made for administration can be justified by corresponding time records which show the amount of time an administrator served on IDEA-Part B, Section 611 grant activities. For example, if 20% of an administrator's salary is paid from IDEA-Part B, Section 611 funding, the district must be able to demonstrate that the administrator actually spent 20% of his/her time solely on IDEA-Part B, Section 611 activities.

New Program Options Under IDEA-Part B, Section 611

For the first time, the following options for the use of entitlement funds are made available to eligible districts/agencies under IDEA-Part B, Section 611 (but not under section 619-preschool). Districts/agencies choosing one or more of these options in FY 1998-99 are required to indicate those options and provide specific information related to the implementation of those options in their FY 1998-99 IDEA-Part B, Section 611 applications.

1. "Schoolwide Programs"

Under Section 613(a)(2)(D) of Public Law 105-17, a district/agency may choose to use a portion of its FY 1998-99 entitlement to operate a "schoolwide program." These programs can operate only in individual schools defined eligible for "schoolwide programs" under provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). IDEA funding for "schoolwide programs" can be intermingled with other funding for program operations. The amount of IDEA-Part B, Section 611 funding available for use in a "schoolwide program" is determined by multiplying the number of students having identified disabilities in that particular eligible school by the per child IDEA-Part B, Section 611 entitlement for FY 1998-99. Those making IDEA-Part B, Section 611 applications will need to consult with their ESEA-Title I contact person to determine which schools in their district are eligible for a "schoolwide program."

2. Programs to "Develop and Implement Integrated and Coordinated Service Systems"

Under 613(a)(4)(B) and 613(f)(1), (2), and (3), an eligible district/agency may utilize up to 5% of its FY 1998-99 IDEA-Part B, Section 611 entitlement to develop and implement a coordinated services system designed to improve results for children and families, including children with disabilities and their families. In implementing a coordinated services system under these sections, an eligible district/agency

may carry out activities that include: (a) improving the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery, including developing strategies that promote accountability results; (b) service coordination and case management that facilitates the linkage of individualized education programs under IDEA-Part B and Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) under IDEA-Part C (birth-to-three) and individualized service plans under multiple Federal and State programs, such as title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (vocational rehabilitation), title XIX of the Social Security Act (supplementary security income); (c) developing and implementing interagency financing strategies for the provision of education, health, mental health, and social services, including transition services and related services under this Act; and (d) interagency personnel development for individuals working on coordinated services. Note: If an eligible district/agency is carrying out a coordinated services project under title XI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and a coordinated services project under this part in the same school(s), such district/agency shall use amounts under IDEA-Part B, Section 611 in accordance with the requirements of that title.

3. School-Based Improvement Plan (SBIP)

Under Section 613(g), in accordance with the options described in (2) and with the approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education, a recipient of an IDEA-Part B, Section 611 entitlement can utilize a portion of that entitlement to allow a school within its jurisdiction to design, implement and evaluate a School Based Improvement Plan (SBIP). The SBIP can be operated for three years. The SBIP would be designed to improve educational and transitional results for all children with disabilities and, as appropriate for other children consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of Section 613(a)(4). SBIPs must be designed, implemented and evaluated by a school-based panel established in accordance with criteria established in PL 105-17. When a SBIP is approved by the CTSDE, it must be funded by a portion of a district's/agency's IDEA-Part B, Section 611 grant award.

B. Changes To IDEA-Part B, Section 619 (the preschool grant)

For the first time in FY 1998-99, and from that point on, IDEA-Part B, section 619 (preschool) grants will be distributed based upon a combination of school enrollment and poverty data. 85% of an eligible district's/agency's entitlement will be related to that district's/agency's relative school enrollment figures. The remaining 15% will be distributed based on poverty data.

For the first time, recipients of IDEA-Part B, Section 619 funding must utilize a portion of that funding to address the needs of eligible students placed in nonpublic schools by their parents (guardians). This new requirement parallels the continuing requirement under Section 611 of the IDEA-Part B. The administration of this new requirement is directed by the IDEA in the same manner as Section 611 of the IDEA. Therefore, the needs of eligible 3-5 year old children placed in nonpublic schools by their parents (guardians) must be considered in developing FY 1998-99 Section 619 applications.

As with IDEA-Part B, Section 611 entitlements for FY 1998-99, eligible district/agencies can utilize Section 619 funding for administrative purposes (line item 111A); but will be limited to a maximum of 10% of the total Section 619 grant entitlement for that purpose. Districts/agencies are again reminded they must be able, upon audit, to demonstrate that, if a certain percentage of an administrator's salary is included in the Section 619 grant, it must show the administrator did, in fact, spend that same percentage of their time working solely on IDEA-Part B, section 619 activities.

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LISTING YOUR POSITION VACANCIES FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

The Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Services, through Carolyn Isakson, Consultant for Speech and Language Services, is continuing its collaboration with the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) to assist school districts in securing qualified staff for speech and language programs.

CSHA will be holding its Spring conference on May 8th and 9th, 1998 at the Marriott Hotel in Farmington. If you have a vacancy for a speech and language pathologist and would like CSHA's assistance in advertising it at the conference, please complete the attached form and **return it to the CSHA office by May 1st**. CSHA's Career Information Committee maintains a booth in the exhibit area during the conference and provides candidates seeking employment with a current list of job vacancies. Information not received by May 1st will not be listed in the directory of vacancies.

The CSHA office maintains an ongoing listing of position vacancies and candidates seeking employment. The office also has a "**JOB HOTLINE**", which is updated on a daily basis. Feel free to copy the CSHA form and use it whenever you have a vacancy that you would like to have listed. You may also request CSHA's candidate list as necessary. Please notify the CSHA office as soon as your position is filled, so that the job listings can be kept current.

For further assistance, you may call Maria Parker at the CSHA office by calling 860-666-6900. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Attachments

cc: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner, Department of Education
Betty Sternberg, Division of Curriculum & Instruction
John Mattas, CAPSEF
Edward Prenata, Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bonnie Moran, Special Education Advisory Council
Superintendents of Schools
Bureau Staff