

Frequently Asked Questions Additional

Enrollment/Poverty Funds

1. We plan to receive our available additional enrollment/poverty money this year; will the money be considered a receipt when calculating maintenance of effort for the current school year?

Yes, to insure that supplanting will not occur, the additional enrollment/poverty funding will be considered a receipt when calculating maintenance of effort.
2. May we use the additional enrollment/poverty funds to purchase special education vans?

*Yes, schools may use this money for special education transportation expenses including special education vans. It is important to remember that if vehicles are salvaged prior to their useful life and are valued at more than \$5,000.00, please contact the NDE financial services section at (402) 471-4314 as additional reporting requirements apply. Please be reminded that any equipment or facility purchases paid for with federal funds must follow the **Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)**.*
3. Energy costs have increased considerably at our school, may we allocate some of the enrollment/poverty funds to help pay for fuel that was used to heat the special education classroom?

Yes, schools may use additional enrollment/poverty funds to offset increased special education facility cost expenditures. If the special education classroom is housed in a portion of the building it will be necessary for the district to prorate the energy costs associated with the classroom.
4. Is it acceptable to use the enrollment/poverty money to hire a principal for our school? Can we use IDEA Part B funds to hire non-endorsed special education staff?

*No. The funds may not be used to hire a principal, as the principal is responsible for the instructional organization and climate for **all students** within the school building. Funds cannot be used to hire non-endorsed staff due to the standards and training requirements established through NDE Rule 10, Rule 51 and IDEA*
5. Is it possible to allocate a portion of the high school principal salary to line item costs associated to special education on the Annual Finance Report (AFR)?

*No, the principal is responsible for the instructional organization and climate for **all students** within the school building.*
6. We have two special education instructors who plan retire. Our school district provides employee “buy outs” to those who take early retirement. May we use the enrollment/poverty Funding for this?

Yes. The additional enrollment/poverty funding may be used for retirement benefits.
7. May the funds be used to pay for regular education staff when they participate in the Student Assistance Team (SAT) process?

No, the student assistance team process is problem-solving process for students prior to placement in special education. It is a regular education function.

8. We have a flexible funding project at our school. Currently 50% of the project is funded through NDE flexible funding money the remainder from local sources. May we use our enrollment/poverty money to pay for the remainder of the project?

*No, flexible funding projects are designed for students who are **at risk** for becoming special education. However, EIS funds may be combined to pay for part or all of the additional costs (refer to question #21 for additional guidance).*

9. We contract for a physical therapist 3 times a week. The therapist has an approved special education provider rate of 42.50 per hour, however the therapist charges the school district \$50.00 per hour, can we use the enrollment/poverty money to pay for the difference.

Yes, the additional enrollment/poverty money may be used in this situation for that portion of special education service delivery costs which have been determined to be non reimbursable under Rule 51.

10. Our superintendent has recently left the state and the replacement will not begin employment until after the July 2, 2009 due date, what will happen if we do not submit this report?

If you do not submit the report titled "Special Education Application for Additional Part B Funding for School Year 2008-2009" by June 2, 2009, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Special Populations Office will carry your district's funds over to the following school year. Please remember, however, that a fund carryover may result in maintenance of effort difficulties in future years.

11. Can the additional enrollment/poverty funds be used for stipends for general and special education teachers for staff training and development?

Yes, the funds may be used for staff development purposes for all educators if the intent of the training is to support students with disabilities in receiving a free appropriate public education.

12. Can these funds be utilized for expanding transition programs to include payment for an apartment to be used for independent living training for students?

Yes, schools may use additional enrollment/poverty funds to offset special education facility cost expenditures.

13. Our school recently consolidated with two other districts. As a result of the consolidation two special education positions were eliminated, will the position reductions qualify as maintenance of effort exception?

Possibly. Issues associated with school consolidation often become complex and individualized. Please contact the NDE Special Populations office at (402) 471-2471 for answers to your questions pertaining to school consolidation.

14. Explain where money should be coded for IDEA E/P money.

Receipts/Expenditures in 4410.

15. Do we code for new and expanded programs under 4410?

Yes.

16. Do we expend out of 4410?
Yes.

17. For Preschool money - where is it coded?
4404.

18. When are the deposits made to school districts for IDEA E/P money? Is it in equal amounts?

Following approval of the application a grant award will be issued for the total amount of IDEA Part B Enrollment/Poverty funds available to the school district. Districts submitting the application by the due date and choosing to use funding as per Section B (Excess Costs) of the application, need NOT submit additional requests and the first payment will be made in January with subsequent payments being made every other month. Districts submitting after the due date and using funds as per Section B (excess costs) will not receive a January payment but will be eligible to receive payments according to the every other month schedule. Districts choosing to use funding for new/expanded costs or IDEA Early Intervening Services costs, must submit NDE Form #28-003 -- Report of Expenditures/Estimated Requirement of Grant Funds, available at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ADSS/NDE28003.pdf> and supporting documentation to receive payments.

19. Base amount for Preschool -- are those deposits made every month?
Yes, please refer to Question Number 21 for additional guidance.

20. Will the IDEA Base amount ever increase or is it capped?
The IDEA base allocation is currently based on the 1997/1998 special education child count and is capped based on Federal law and regulation. The IDEA "base" flow-through allocation used for Below Age Five payments remains the same (set amount which does increase yearly) meaning that these payments are covering less of the Below Age Five Costs. School districts receive separate grant award for the IDEA "base" flow-through allocation which is distributed to districts according to the original SPED Below Age Give payment schedule (monthly beginning in December 2006) but based on the 1998 special education child count (ages 3-21) and the 1997 special education count (ages 3-5) as per federal regulation.

21. Can you explain the Early Intervening services (EIS)? Can this 15% be pooled with money from the Flex Funding option?
IDEA Early Intervening Services (EIS) projects are optional projects that are available to school districts and approved cooperatives. Funds for EIS may be applied for separately or pooled with amounts generated through the NDE Special Populations Office Flexible Funding Option or with other education or non-education funds to provide services for students. NDE payment for project costs is limited to 15% of the district's current year IDEA Part B, Section 611 allocation. The projects are designed for students in kindergarten through grade 12 (with a particular emphasis on students in kindergarten through grade 3) who have not been identified as needing special education services but who need additional academic and behavioral support to succeed in a general education environment. All EIS Projects require an approved NDE application, requests for payment (NDE Form #28-0003) and final report.

22. How do you submit a proposal for Early Intervening Services?
The EIS application is included as a component of the Flex Funding application. Districts are provided with maximum available EIS amount (based on the 15% of IDEA allocation: and are required to indicate intent on the IDEA Enrollment/Poverty (E/P) application, EIS is optional (required for districts identified by NDE as being disproportionate) and should a district not apply for EIS funding the district applies the total IDEA allocation to special education services.
23. Will my district lose money in the long run if I continue to put all of my current E/P money into carryover?
No. Assuming Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is met.
24. When is the 08-09 application form due?
The 2008-2009 E/P application is available via the NDE Portal on _____ . All applications are due December 18, 2008, if districts wish to receive their first payment in January 2009 (please refer to question # 18).