



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 26, 2024  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Directors of Special Education  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Deadline: July 31, 2024

## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B State Fiscal Year 2025 Entitlement Allocations and Electronic Grant Application Information

The IDEA Part B State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 allocations are posted on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [Office of Special Education's IDEA Allocations webpage](#). IDEA Part B Section 611 (Basic 3-21) and Section 619 (Preschool 3-5) awards are distributed on a formula basis to school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, and state agencies. A detailed description of the data used in the individual allocation formulas may be found under the allocation tabs within the IDEA consolidated grant application. Eligible agencies (i.e., Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and State Agencies) should utilize these amounts to plan for the use of funds. Eligible agencies will notice changes in their allocations due to various factors, such as available federal funding, enrollment, and poverty factors, and the number of children with disabilities served. Additionally, be advised that base allocation adjustments may be required during the project period, per 34 CFR §300.705(b)(2) and §300.816(b).

### SFY 2025 IDEA-B Electronic Grant Submission

The SFY 2025 IDEA consolidated grant application is now available in the NJDOE's [Electronic Web Enabled Grant System \(EWEG\)](#) and must be completed by **Wednesday, July 31, 2024**. Instructions for completing each section are provided within the application.

### Grant Project Period Timelines/Obligation of Funds

LEAs and State Agencies that submit their applications in substantially approvable form by the due date may obligate these funds beginning July 1. The grant project period for SFY 2025 runs from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with an additional 12-month period of availability of unexpended funds to be budgeted in the following fiscal year.

The NJDOE receives the IDEA Part B Section 611 award from the United States Department of Education (USED) in two separate awards (July 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024). Therefore, full allocations will not be available until October 1, 2024 and LEAs should anticipate obligating no more than 14 percent of their SFY 2025 IDEA Basic allocation for activities planned for July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

### LEA Determinations/Significant Disproportionality

In accordance with 34 CFR §300.647, the NJDOE utilizes a risk ratio to identify LEAs with significant disproportionality for the SFY 2025 grant year. The NJDOE is available to provide technical assistance to those districts identified with significant disproportionality. As in previous years, annual determinations can be found within the consolidated grant application.

LEAs identified for significant disproportionality are required to reserve 15 percent of their total allocation (Basic + Preschool x 0.15) to implement Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS), according to 34 CFR §300.226. Beginning in the 2019-20 grant year, as per §300.646(d), LEAs identified for significant disproportionality may use the CCEIS funds for:

- Children from age 3 through grade 12;
- Children who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services but who need additional academic and behavioral support;
- Children currently identified as needing special education or related services (funds cannot be used exclusively for this group); and
- Professional development and educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports.

The activities must address the factors, policies, practices, and/or procedures contributing to the significant disproportionality. For additional information on CCEIS, please refer to the Significant Disproportionality resources available on the NJDOE's [Special Education Policy and Procedures](#) webpage.

LEAs with a risk ratio of 3.0 or higher for two consecutive years in any category will also be notified on the "LEA Determinations" tab within the application as an early warning notice. LEAs with or without an early warning notification that are not identified for significant disproportionality may choose to voluntarily reserve 15 percent of their total allocation to implement Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). In contrast to the information set forth above, LEAs that voluntarily implement CEIS may only serve an identified group of at-risk students in grades K-12 who are not yet eligible for special education and related services.

#### **GEPA 427 Requirement and Assurances**

Per the USED's Office of Special Education Programs (US OSEP) updated requirements, the IDEA consolidated grant application now includes, in the list of assurances, a certification of compliance with the requirements of Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). Section 427 of the GEPA requires each applicant for funds to include in its grant application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. This provision allows applicants discretion in developing the required description. The statute highlights six types of barriers that may impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. Based on local circumstances, an LEA should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent its students, teachers, etc. from such access to, or participation in, the federally-funded project or activity.

#### **Contact Information**

For questions regarding the application process, please direct inquiries to your County Special Education Specialist, or contact NJDOE's Office of Fiscal and Data Services via email at [OFDS@doe.nj.gov](mailto:OFDS@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group