

TO: Special Education Directors, Superintendents, Business Officials

FROM: Pam Wright

RE: SEEC Changes

DATE: November 20, 2017

The Office of Special Education and the Finance Office have been closely monitoring the use of the Special Education Excess Cost (SEEC) funds this year. Until the 2016-17 School Year, the Department of Education (DOE) was able to process all SEEC applications without exceeding the state funds appropriated under IC 20-35-6-2. During 2016-17, the appropriated amount was exceeded and we anticipate exceeding the appropriation for the current school year as well. In addition, policy changes were made several years ago and districts no longer contributed ADM or APC to assist with excess cost which resulted in DOE paying more than in previous years. Although federal discretionary funds were available to support the overage last year, a recent reduction in the FY2018 federal grant, coupled with the significant increase in the number of applications and cost of services, limits DOE's ability to continue to fund applications at the same level as in past years.

Due to the increased demand for funding during the 2016-17 school year, a group of stakeholders from local school corporations met last summer to discuss possible changes to the SEEC process. Prior to determining next steps, the stakeholder group provided the DOE with input on possible changes to allowable SEEC costs. Their feedback was solicited again as it became clear that the funding level for 2017-18 would not be sufficient to support all of the allowable costs that have been supported in the past. Using their feedback, a plan has been developed to cut costs for the remainder of this school year while keeping the priorities of school corporations in mind.

The following are changes to SEEC allowable costs for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year:

1. Residential and Day Programs will continue to be an allowable cost with local APC and ADM funding being contributed toward the cost (This is already in place). A cap on funding for Residential and Day Programs is being considered.
2. No Extended School Year (ESY) Services will be funded in Day Programs.
3. Extended School Year (ESY) in Residential Programs may be funded on a limited basis in the summer of 2018.
4. No ABA services, both in centers and in LEAs, will be funded.
5. No one-on-one services, both in facilities and LEAs, will be funded.
6. No related services will be funded (this is already in place).
7. No transportation will be funded.

Applications that have been approved and contracts that have been executed will not be affected by these changes and payments on invoices will continue. For applications currently in review or received in our office between now and December 1, contract end dates will be adjusted if the request is for funding services that are no longer allowable. The new parameters will apply to all applications received on or after Dec. 1.



Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Working Together for Student Success

As a reminder, application approval emails are sent to LEAs prior to contract creation. If you have received an approval letter, **please remember it is your responsibility to carefully review the budget attached to the approval.** If there are errors in the budget, you must notify our office immediately. Once the contract is signed, we have limited ability to make changes and we only are able to approve an invoice if the costs incurred match the approved budget.

Please remember that funding is never guaranteed and is definitely not a topic for case conference committee discussion. No decisions about services should be based on whether DOE is able to help schools with funding.

We understand that these changes may require adjustments in your Part B grants in order to pay for services that may not have been originally included in your applications. If you need assistance with modifications, please feel free to contact partbgrants@doe.in.gov.