



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Corporation Finance Staff

From: Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple, Director of Special Education

Sarah Fields, Senior Fiscal Specialist

Date: July 14, 2023

Subject: Auditory Verbal Accelerated (AVA) Education Funding Updates

Following the 2023 legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will receive \$2 million per fiscal year to assist school corporations with the costs of educating students who require AVA education services.

Indiana Code (IC) 20-35-13-1 defines a AVA education program as a specialized program that relies solely on and develops listening skills, uses an implant or assistive hearing device for the purpose of relying on speech and spoken language skills as the method of communication, and uses faculty and supervisors certified as listening and spoken language specialists each day the child is in attendance.

Eligible students must meet the requirements outlined in IC 20-35-13-3 to participate in the AVA education program. The student must:

- Have received an implant or assistive hearing device;
- Be at least three years of age;
- Be less than seven years of age; and
- be a resident of Indiana.

A student may participate in the program until the either of the following occur:

- The student completes grade two.
- The student completes the school year in which they become seven years of age.

In addition, IC 20-35-13-4 outlines that the level of student services shall be determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, including the student's parent and a certified Listening and Spoken Language Specialist.

The application to request funding for AVA education services can be found in the [Office of Special Education Community in Moodle](#) under the Fiscal section in the Auditory-Visual Accelerated Education Program folder.

Upon completion, applications must be emailed to avaedu@doe.in.gov for review. During application review, IDOE will review applications utilizing eligible criteria from IC 20-35-13-3 and IC 20-35-13-4 to determine if the requirements for approving AVA funds have been met.



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AVA education funding guidance is detailed below and is effective immediately for all applications:

- Corporations are not required to pay a minimum fee per application. AVA programming will be covered until all allotted funds are exhausted.
- AVA education funding may include programming for:
 - Tuition, which includes the following services:
 - Individual and group listening and spoken language therapy;
 - Classroom instruction aligned with Indiana Academic Standards;
 - Parent coaching and education;
 - Ongoing student assessment;
 - Educational audiology services;
 - Music therapy; and
 - Mainstream transition support.
 - Annual full or abbreviated listening and spoken language evaluations;
 - Occupational and physical therapy, if applicable;
 - Occupational and physical evaluations, if applicable; and
 - Other related services described in a student's IEP, if applicable.
- AVA education funding does not include payment for:
 - Transportation;
 - Extended school year services;
 - Summer camp;
 - Ongoing mainstream services;
 - Off-site teletherapy; or
 - Other services that occur outside of regularly scheduled school hours.
- When completing the application, the budget start date will be the student's first day of attendance in the AVA program, and the budget's end date must be no later than the student's IEP end date.
- Applications must be submitted within two weeks after the case conference committee convenes.
- Once AVA funds are exhausted for the fiscal year, corporations must utilize other funding streams available to cover costs for AVA education services.

If a corporation has already filed a Special Education Excess Cost (SEEC) application for services during the 2023-2024 school year for a student who meets the AVA fund requirements, the SEEC application will be voided upon submission of the AVA application.

Contact IDOE's [Office of Special Education's AVA team](#) with any additional questions.