State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

May 23, 2017

TO:	Chief School Administrators
	Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
	State Agency *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-Part B (IDEA-B)* Project Directors
FROM:	John Worthington, Director
	Office of Special Education Policy and Procedure
SUBJECT:	*IDEA-B* State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 Entitlement Allocations and Electronic Application Information

The *IDEA-B* SFY 2018 allocations are now posted on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Special Education webpage. The basic and preschool allocations are distributed on a formula basis to school districts, charter schools, renaissance school projects, and state agencies. A detailed description of the individual allocation formulas may be found on the allocation pages of the online grant application. Eligible agencies should use these amounts to plan for the use of the funds. Districts will notice changes in allocations due to various factors, such as available federal funding, the district's census and poverty factors, and the number of children being covered.

SFY 2018 *IDEA-B* Electronic Grant Submission
The SFY 2018 *IDEA* grants must be completed in the Electronic Web Enabled Grant System (EWEG), a statewide program designed to provide coordination among all grant applications. The SFY 2018 *IDEA* application will be available on the EWEG system as of May 26, 2017. The applications are due June 30, 2017. Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/state agencies that successfully submit their applications through the EWEG system by the due date (i.e., the application would be considered to be in substantially approvable form) may begin to allocate the funds as of July 1, 2017.

Please be aware that two sections – the Maintenance of Fiscal Effort requirements and the Excess Cost requirements – were modified for this application. Review the instructions for these sections carefully. The Excess Cost sample spreadsheet must be used as part of the submission. No exceptions will be allowed.

Grant Project Period Timelines/Obligation of Funds
LEAs/State Agencies may obligate these funds beginning July 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated (SFY 2018) through September 30 of the second successive fiscal year (SFY 2020). This maximum period includes a 15-month period of initial availability, plus a 12-month period for carryover. For example, funds from the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 appropriation initially become available on July 1, 2017, and may be obligated/expended by the grantee and sub-grantee through September 30, 2019.

Because the NJDOE receives the *IDEA* Basic award from the United States Department of Education in separate awards (July 1, 2017 and October 1, 2017), the full allocations for these programs will not be available until October 1, 2017. Therefore, districts should anticipate *obligating* no more than 14 percent of their SFY 2018 *IDEA* Basic allocation for activities planned for July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please direct inquiries to your county supervisor of child study, or contact Patricia Holcomb-Gray in the NJDOE's Office of Special Education Policies and Procedures at (609) 984-4953.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

JW/KE/phg
c: Members, State Board of Education
    Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner
    Senior Staff
    Diane Shoener
    Anne Corwell
    Kathleen Ehling
    Patricia Holcomb-Gray
    Constance Webster
    Executive County Superintendents
    Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
    Executive County Business Officials
    County Supervisors of Child Study
    Advisory Committee for Nonpublic Schools
    New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association
    Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
    Garden State Coalition of Schools
    NJ LEE Group