

# Special Education Funding

## State Special Education Funding

### General Principles (ARM 10.16.3804)

- Funding based on legislative appropriation and current year ANB
- Local contributions (match) is required
- OPI uses Trustee's Financial Summary (TFS) data to calculate payments

### Instructional Block Grant (IBG)

- 52.5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Funded on per-ANB basis (current ANB)
- Paid directly to district
- Part of BASE Budget
- 33% Match required

### Related Services Block Grant (RSBG)

- 17.5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Funded on per-ANB basis (current ANB)
- Paid to district, or if member, to the Coop
- Part of BASE Budget
- 33% Match required
- Related services include Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, etc.

### Reimbursement for Disproportionate Costs

- 25% of legislature's special education appropriation
- Intended to reimburse those districts with unusually high cost students
- Paid only to districts, not to Coops
- Part of Special Ed Allowable Cost Payment
- No requirement to spend on Special Ed costs
- Rate is \$0.40 for every \$1 spent above threshold

### Coop Admin & Travel

- 5% of legislature's special education appropriation
- 60% based on ANB counts of member districts

- 40% based on # of member districts, FTE for itinerant personnel, CY ANB of member districts and # of road miles within co-op boundaries

### **Quality Educator Payment (20-9-327, MCA)**

- Based on # of full-time equivalent educators
  - Distributed to School Districts, Special Education Cooperatives, MT School for the Deaf & Blind, State youth correctional facilities, and the Montana Youth Challenge Program

### **Special Ed Tuition**

- For Out-of-District Attendance Situations
- For In-District Attendance Situations (SB 191)
- State Paid Tuition 20-5-321(d) and (e), MCA
  - OPI pays tuition and transportation costs for non-resident students if:
    - the child is under the protective care of a state agency or has been adjudicated to be a youth in need of intervention or a delinquent youth, as defined in 41-5-103, or
    - the child is required to attend school outside of the district of residence as the result of a placement in foster care or a group home licensed by the state.

### **IDEA Part B Funding**

- Coops receive allocations on behalf of member districts
- Allocated based on formula in IDEA which uses enrollment and population/poverty data

### **Medicaid Reimbursements**

- Administered by Dept. of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
- Available programs
  - Direct Services or Direct Care
  - Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC)
  - Comprehensive School & Community Treatment (CSCT)
- May be used for any school purpose (20-9-507, MCA)
- No deadline in which to spend money

### **Impact Aid**

- Flat allocation based on Child Count, LOT percentage
- Must spend for special education purposes
- Funds may be accumulated from year to year

## **Additional Requirements**

### **Maintenance of Fiscal Effort**

\*IDEA Part B Funds may not be used to reduce the level of state/local or local fund expenditures for special education below the level of expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.

- OPI calculates MOE using data from the Trustees' Financial Summary (TFS)
- OPI sends a report to the Part B applicant which shows:
  - expenditures for state/local funds in Program 280
  - allowed reduction and decrease in enrollment (calculates per capita)

Districts are allowed to reduce the level of expenditures for special education with one or more of the following Allowed Exceptions:

1. Voluntary departure, by retirement or otherwise, or departure for just cause of special education personnel
2. Decrease in enrollment of children with disabilities
3. Termination of the obligation of the district to provide a special education program to a particular child that is exceptionally costly (e.g., student left the district; no longer requires the special education program)
4. Termination of obligations related to Long-term purchases (i.e., equipment/ facilities)

### **State Maintenance of Financial Support**

Similar to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) at the district level

The state is not allowed to reduce the level of appropriation for special education below the level of appropriation for the preceding fiscal year

Includes ALL funds made available for the provision of special education and related services at the state level

Calculation includes amounts appropriated or expended by the OPI, MSDB, DPHHS, and DOC (both youth and adult).