

Special Education High Cost Aid

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STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION HIGH COST AID

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Special Education High Cost Aid

- Both a state appropriation and IDEA grant funds
- Purpose is to help provide financial relief to districts that provide an especially costly special education program to an individual student
- LEAs, CESAs, CCDEBs, and 2r Charter Schools eligible

Overview

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- **Special education service costs for an individual student in a single year must exceed \$30,000**
 - The amount over \$30,000 is eligible for reimbursement on a pro-rated scale
- **Reimbursement is after-the-fact and paid a full year after the costs were incurred**
 - Timeline for reimbursement is established in Wisconsin statute

Costs Eligible for Reimbursement

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- **Direct special education instruction or related services**
 - Services must be documented in the student's IEP
- **A listing of reimbursable costs incurred in 2010-11:**
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/highcost-allowables.pdf>

Transportation

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- The need for special transportation **MUST** be documented in the student's IEP
- Eligible for reimbursement:
 - Vehicle insurance
 - Mileage
 - Driver costs
 - Transportation aide costs
- If these same costs are also incurred by children who do not meet the definition of high cost, then the costs are not eligible for reimbursement

Calculations

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- **Project Costs 011 – Aidable Costs**
 - 28% deducted from the cost *before* the cost is counted towards the \$30,000 threshold
- **Example:**
 - \$31,000 in 27-158000-100-011
 - -\$8,680
 - Counted towards High Cost: \$22,320
 - ✦ This cost alone does not meet the \$30,000 threshold, and so none of it is eligible for reimbursement under the high cost aid program

Calculations

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- **Project Costs 019 – Non-Aidable Costs**
 - Entire costs qualifies *if* it is an expenditure that is eligible for reimbursement. For example, supplies that were purchased to specifically address the needs of the high cost student.
- **Example:**
 - \$3,000 in 27-158000-400-019
 - Counted towards High Cost: \$3,000
 - ✦ This cost alone does not meet the \$30,000 threshold, and so none of it is eligible for reimbursement under the high cost aid program

Calculations

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- **Project Costs 341 – Federal Costs**
 - Costs qualify towards meeting the \$30,000 threshold; however, no costs over \$30,000 are eligible for reimbursement
- **Example:**
 - \$35,000 in 27-158000-100-341
 - -\$5,000
 - Counted towards High Cost: \$30,000
 - ✦ This cost has met the high cost threshold. However, because the additional \$5,000 has already been reimbursed with other federal dollars, there are no costs eligible for high cost reimbursement.

Maximizing Revenue

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- Determine student costs
- Run scenario
 - Costs charged to the grant are not eligible for reimbursement but **can** be used to meet the \$30,000 threshold
 - Costs that are eligible for categorical aid are reimbursed at the dollar amount less the categorical aid received

Putting Them Together

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- **\$31,000 in 27-158000-100-011**
 - \$22,320 counted towards the high cost threshold
- **\$3,000 in 27-158000-400-019**
 - \$3,000 counted towards the high cost threshold
- **\$35,000 in 27-158000-100-341**
 - \$30,000 counted towards the high cost threshold
- **Total: \$55,320 counted towards the high cost threshold**

Final Calculation

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- \$55,320 counted towards high cost threshold
- Subtract \$30,000: \$25,320
- Eligible for high cost special education reimbursement at 90% of costs: \$22,788
- Average pro-rate of 49%: **\$11,166**

Cost of Student

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- **Total Cost: \$69,000**
- **Amount covered by State Categorical Aid: \$8,680**
- **Amount covered by Federal Aid: \$35,000**
- **Amount covered by High Cost Aid: \$11,166**
- **Amount covered locally: \$14,154**

Technical Assistance

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- Claim software instructions:

www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/high-cost-instructions.pdf

- Additional information for submitting approvable high cost student claims:

<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/highcost.html>