

An Overview of Special Education Funding for 2r Charter Schools



Free Appropriate Public Education

Before we learn about special education funding,
we need to talk about the obligation to provide-

“FAPE”



Determining who is entitled to FAPE

- Child Find – children with disabilities
- Identifying children with disabilities
- Determining who is suspected of having a disability
- Evaluating children suspected of having disabilities
- Reevaluating children with disabilities



What is FAPE?

- The **I**ndividuals with **D**isabilities **E**ducation **A**ct or **I**DEA mandates FAPE
- Two-part test (*Rowley*)
 - Comply with IDEA procedures
 - Confer a meaningful educational benefit
- Cadillac versus Chevrolet
- Achieving passing grades and promotion



Elements of FAPE

- Special Education
 - Related Services
 - At public expense
 - Under public supervision
 - Without charge
 - Meet DPI and IDEA standards
 - Appropriate preschool, elementary, or secondary education
 - In conformity with an IEP
- 34 CFR 300.17



What is an IEP?

A written statement that includes-

- Present levels of performance
- Effects of disability learning general curriculum
- Measurable annual goals
- Progress reporting
- For some children, benchmarks or short-term objectives
- Special education and related services
- Supplementary aids and services
- Program modifications or supports for school personnel

34 CFR 300.320



What is an IEP? (cont.)

- Extent to which child will not participate with nondisabled children
- Individual appropriate accommodations on state and local assessments
- Projected date for beginning of services and modifications, and anticipated amount, frequency, location, duration of services and modifications
- Transition services
- Statement the student has been informed of special education rights

34 CFR 300.320



IEP Development

- Developed by an IEP team at a meeting
- Not subject to veto after the meeting
- Services based on a child's needs, including special factors
- In effect at the beginning of the school year
- Reviewed at least annually



Educational Placement

- Made by a group
 - Parents
 - Others knowledgeable individuals
- In the “least restrictive environment”
- Determined at least annually
- Based on the IEP
- As close as possible to the child’s home
- In school he/she would attend if not disabled
- Consider potential harmful effects
- Not removed solely because curriculum modifications are not available



How much should we budget for special education?

- Based on IEPs and placements
- Determine delivery model for required IEP services
- Determine costs for-
 - school staff
 - purchased services
 - equipment, materials, and supplies
- Budget sufficient funds



Funding Sources

- Charter School Aid
 - State Aid
 - Federal Aid
- State Special Education Categorical Aid
- High Cost Aid
- IDEA allocations
 - Preschool (619)
 - Entitlement (611)
- Medicaid School-based Services Program
- Local funds
- More information: <http://dpi/wi.gov/sfs/speced.html>



Charter School Aid

- **State Charter School Aid Program**
 - Sec. 118.40(2r), Wis. Stats.
 - \$7.775 x student membership
 - Four payment of 25%
- **Federal Charter School Aid Program**
 - No Child Left Behind
 - One-year planning grant
 - 24 month continuation funding
 - Amount based on enrollment, grade levels served, student economic status, and whether area includes SIFI schools
- Contact Margaret McMurray at 1-888-245-2732, ext. #5 (toll free) or 608-266-5728 or margaret.mcmurray@dpi.wi.gov.



State Special Education Categorical Aid

- Paid on a reimbursement basis
- Payment Schedule – Six payments
- Eligible expenses
 - http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sfs/doc/se_claim_directions.doc
 - Special education teachers, aides, administrative staff
 - Special transportation costs
 - Related services staff
 - Physical and occupational therapists
 - School psychologists, social workers, nurses, guidance counselors



State Special Education Categorical Aid (cont.)

- Appropriate DPI license
http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/doc/valid_code_se.doc.
- Technical assistance contact - Michele Tessner at 608-267-9218 or michele.tessner@dpi.wi.gov.



Special Education High Cost Aid

- Funded with state and IDEA funds
- Costs must exceed \$30,000
- Paid on a reimbursement basis
- Additional information:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/highcost.html>.
- Technical assistance: Lori Ames at 608-267-3749 or
lori.ames@dpi.wi.gov.



IDEA Subgrants

- Application

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/lpp-budgets.html>

- Eligibility

- IDEA requirements

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/idea.html>

- Maintenance of Local Fiscal Effort

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/grt-moe.html>

- Allocations

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/lpp-budgets.html#allocations>



IDEA Subgrants (cont'd)

- Use of Funds
 - Allowable costs
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/grt-allowables.html>
 - Time and effort reporting
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/lpp-budgets.html>
 - Maximizing the Impact



IDEA Subgrants (cont'd)

- Claiming funds
 - Special Education Web Portal
 - Submitted quarterly
 - More Information
 - <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/idea-claim-process.pdf>
 - <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/amended-claims-instructions.pdf>
- Technical assistance: Claudia Kessel at 608-267-2349 or claudia.kessel@dpi.wi.gov



Medicaid SBS Program

IEP services are covered if-

- Medically necessary and in a Medicaid covered category
- All federal and state Medicaid regulations are followed
- Medical services are included in the state's plan or available under EPSDT
- Provided to a Medicaid-eligible student

Outreach and administrative case management

Gregory DiMiCeli at 608-266-9815 or

gregory.dimiceli@dhs.wisconsin.gov or Steve Milioto
at 608-266-3802 or steve.milioto@dhs.wisconsin.gov.