

# IDEA's Equitable Services Set-Aside

**Required Federal Funding for  
Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities**

**34 CFR §§ 300.130-300.144**

**Federal Funding Conference  
February 2021**



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

# Acronyms

**FAPE** - Free Appropriate Public Education

**SEA** - State Education Agency

- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

**LEA** - Local Education Agency

- ❖ Defined by state statute as the agency responsible for FAPE
  - Wisconsin Public School Districts
  - Wisconsin Independent Charter Schools
  - Wisconsin Dept of Corrections, Dept of Health Services

Formula funds under IDEA are awarded on a non-competitive basis for programs and services to students with disabilities.

## Types of IDEA Formula Grants

### Preschool (PS)

Provides funds for special education services to students ages 3 to 5.

### Flow-through (FT)

Provides funds for special education services to students ages 3 to 21.

# Equitable Services Set-Aside Regulations

**Students with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools (34 CFR § 300.130 - 300.148 )**

**Private School Definition: Wisconsin statute § 118.165**

- ❖ Does not cover children who are home schooled

**Applies to students placed in private schools *by their parents***

- ❖ Does not include students in private placements by public entities such as the LEA or a county agency

# Wisconsin Private Schools

For a private school to maintain its status as an “active” school in Wisconsin, private school officials must annually complete the PI-1207 Private School Report, required by Wis. Stat. Sec. 115.30(3) and 118.165(1).

The PI-1207 collects student enrollment and statutory assurances.

Students enrolled in “inactive” private schools are still included in IDEA’s equitable services provision.

# Frequently Requested Clarification

## Are Residential Care Centers considered private schools?

- ❖ Yes – if they meet the definition of a private school in Wisconsin, they are private schools under the equitable participation provision of IDEA.

The Key: Equitable services are provided to parentally placed private school students. So although RCCs are private schools, the student has to be placed there by a parent to be considered.

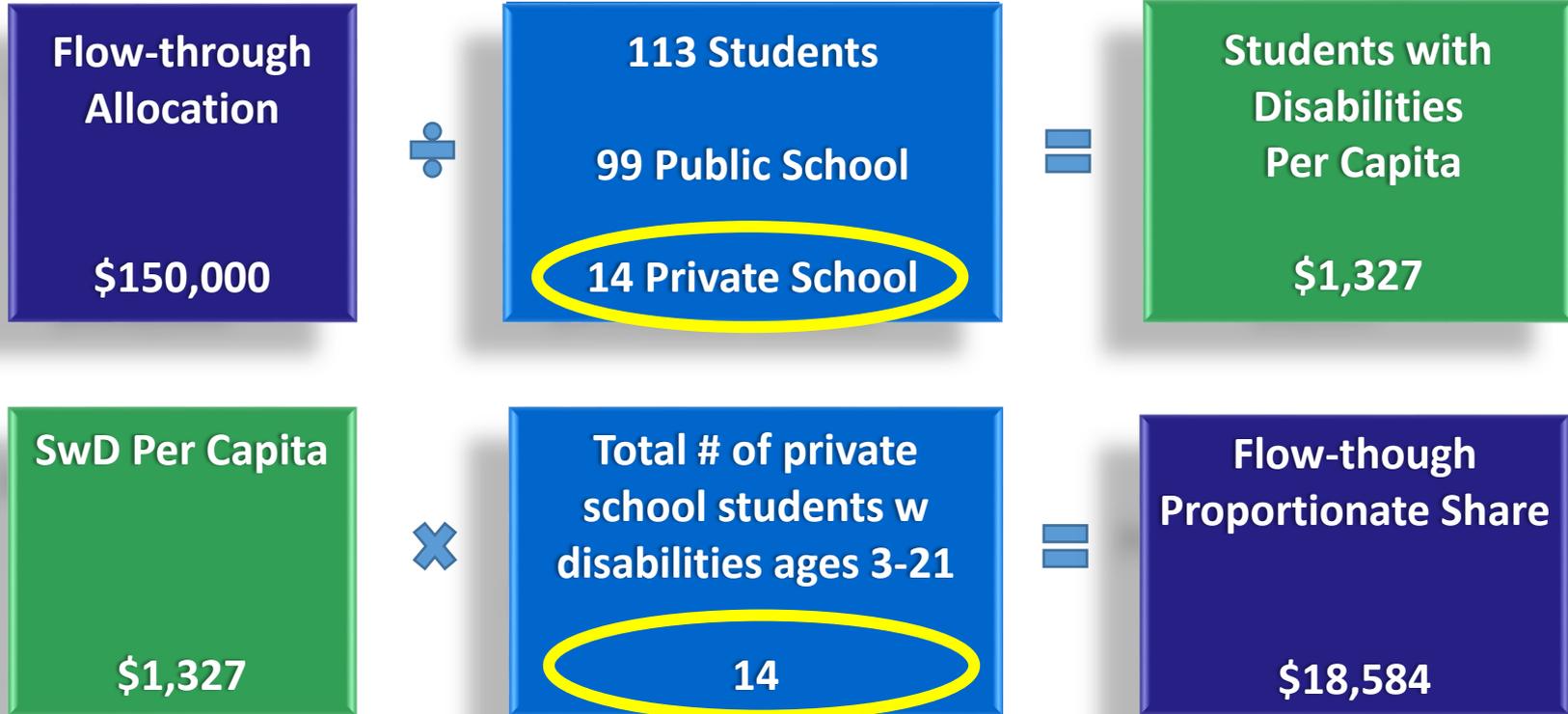


# Proportionate Share

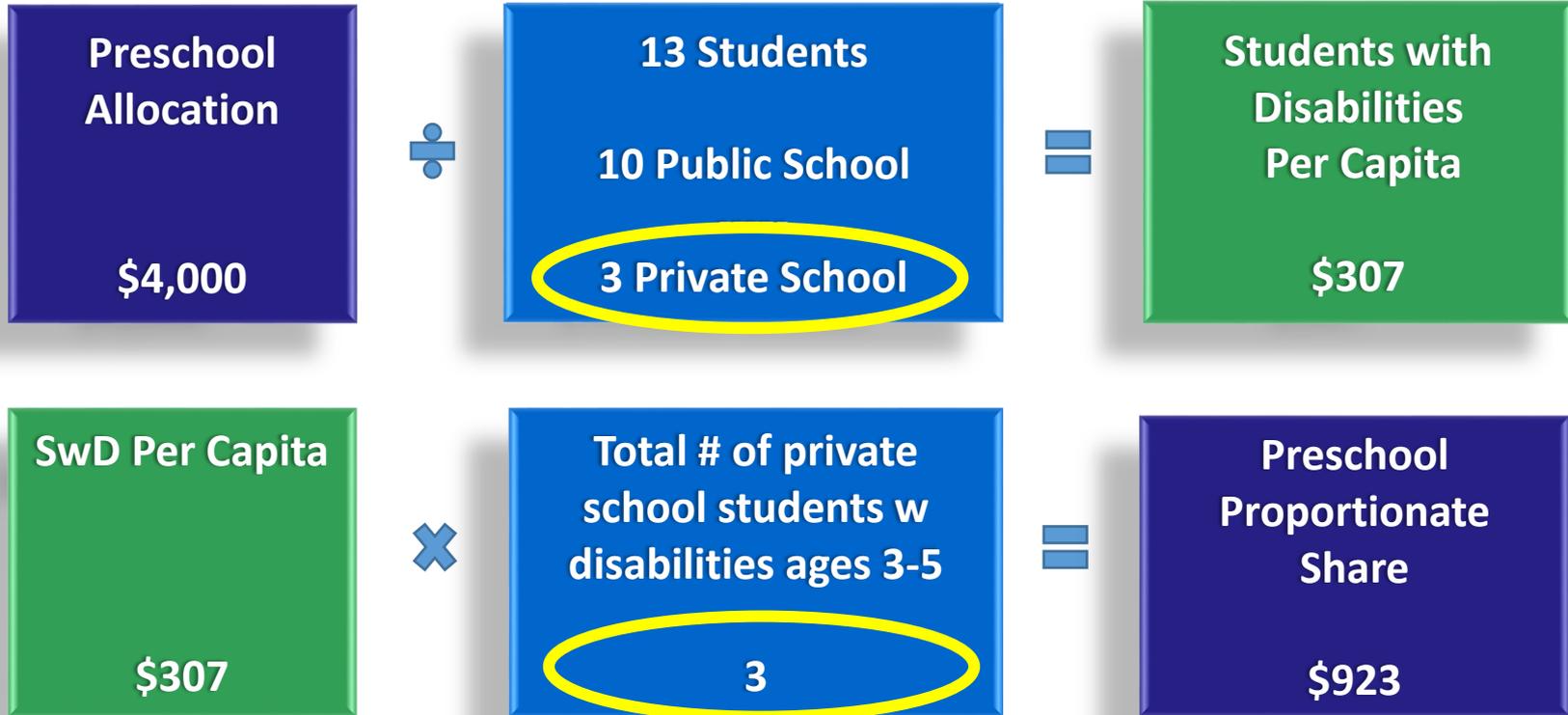
**An annual calculation using the LEA's IDEA grant amounts and student counts to determine the reservation that must be spent on providing special education services to parentally placed private school students.**



# Proportionate Share Calculation



# Proportionate Share Calculation



## Allocation

The calculation uses only the current fiscal year's grant allocation – carryover from the prior year is not included .

## Flow-through Student with Disabilities Count

This includes all students *eligible* for special education services, ages 3 to 21, attending public and private schools as of October 1 of the prior fiscal year.

## Preschool Student with Disabilities Count

This includes all students *eligible* for special education services, ages 3 to 5, attending public and private schools as of October 1 of the prior fiscal year.

## **Private School Students with Disabilities Count**

**All private schools located within the LEA's jurisdiction.**

**Include students with disabilities 4K through grade 12 even if not receiving services.**

**Include students with disabilities at choice schools or attending a private school with a Wisconsin special needs scholarship.**

**Wisconsin statute (115.01(2)) does not include an elementary grade for 3-year-olds. To count this age for the proportionate share, the student must be enrolled in a private school 4K program.**

## Private School Student Count

Jane resides in the  
Sparta School District

Jane attends a private  
school located in the  
Tomah School District

Tomah counts Jane in its  
proportionate share calculation

The private school student belongs to the LEA where the student's private school is located.

# Required Obligation Period

The proportionate share calculation is determined each fiscal year.

The LEA has 24 months to spend a single year's reservation, with a focus on spending as much of the reserved amount as possible during year one.

A reservation amount was determined July 1, 2020

This amount should be expended by June 30, 2022

- ❖ FY 2020-2021 is Year 1

- ❖ FY 2021-2022 is Year 2

# Regular Obligation Period

An LEA has 27 months to spend a single year's flow-through or preschool allocation (Tydings Period).

Equitable services requires a 24 month spending period.

Funds not expended at the close of the 24 month period may be used at the LEA's discretion.

- ❖ *Only* if the LEA is meeting all of the equitable services requirements. ([OSEP Guidance](#), "Questions and Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools," question H-5)

# Eligible Expenditures

## Direct Student Services (Required)

- ❖ Costs of providing special education and related services, including transportation to these services.
  - Speech & Language
  - Occupational or Physical Therapy
  - Learning Disability (LD) Instruction

## Indirect Services (Not Required, but eligible costs)

- ❖ Special education training for private school personnel.
- ❖ Resource / Assistive Technology library accessible to private schools.

# Non-Eligible Expenditures

Child find activities

Special education evaluations

Administrative Costs – clerical, director, etc.

***\*\* These expenditures are already the responsibility of the LEA outside of the provision of equitable services.***



# Expenditures NEVER Allowed

**Remodeling or repairs of private school facilities.**

- ❖ Accessible bathrooms; wheelchair ramps; door openers

**Costs generated from providing academic interventions to students without disabilities.**

- ❖ Federal funds cannot be used for the general needs of students enrolled in a private school. (34 CFR §76.658)

# Expenditures NEVER Allowed

Paying salaries of private school staff for part of their regular duties.

Private School Speech and Language Teacher – 40 Hours

Reduces Private School Costs

LEA Share – 5 Hours

Private School Speech and Language Teacher – 40 Hours

LEA Contract



Total hours for the private school Speech / Language Teacher is 45 hours a week

# No Benefit to the Private Schools

**IDEA funds may not be turned over to the private school to use at its discretion.**

- ❖ Do not send a check to the private school!
- ❖ The LEA must determine the services and pay for them.

**Non-disposable items purchased with IDEA funds belong to the LEA, not the private school.**

- ❖ Textbooks
- ❖ FM systems
- ❖ Touchscreen devices

# Equitable Services – Property Management

Any equipment purchased for the student attending the private school is **OWNED** by the LEA.

- ❖ Know what has been purchased with IDEA funds.
- ❖ Know where it is located.
- ❖ Know how it is being used.
- ❖ Get it back when no longer needed by the student at the private school.



# Equitable Services – Time & Effort

**Charges to Federal awards must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must:**

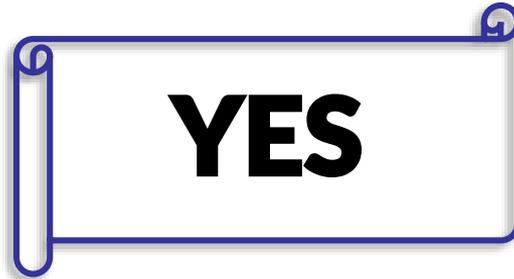
- ❖ Be supported by a system of internal control which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated.
- ❖ Be incorporated into the official records of the subrecipient.
- ❖ Document the staff time spent providing equitable services.

# Supplement / Not Supplant

An LEA must expend the minimum required amount of IDEA funds on special education services to parentally placed private school children BEFORE local funds may be used.

# Clarification Regarding Funding Source

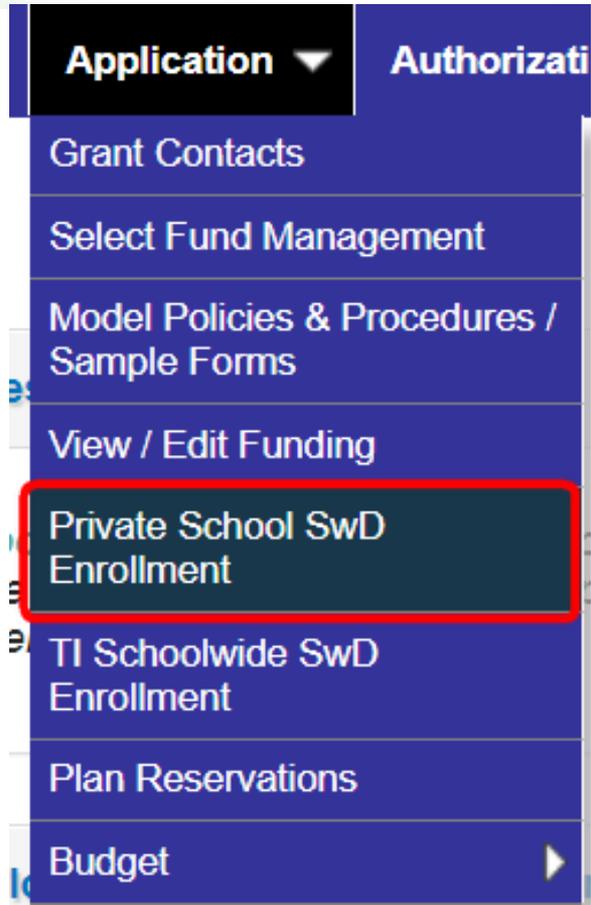
We bill all of our Speech and Language therapists to Medicaid. Do we have to use IDEA funds to provide services to private school students? We're providing the services, we just want to use local funds.



The equitable services set-aside amount under IDEA must be used. To use local funds instead of the IDEA funds would be considered supplanting.

# WISEgrants Application Process

- ❖ Collects private school student enrollment numbers for equitable services participation.
- ❖ Collects private school student information for the “Additional Data” reporting requirement. (34 CFR §300.132(c))
- ❖ Reserves funds for equitable services.
- ❖ Budgets and claims for reserved equitable services amount.
- ❖ Tracks unspent funds reserved for equitable services.



If you do not see this option on the application menu, then there are no private schools (per DPI) in the LEA's jurisdiction.

If you do see it, enrollment must be completed before the flow-through or preschool budget can be entered.

# WISEgrants Application Process – Step 1

## Enter the Enrollment Count Date

Enrollment Count Date ▼

Select the date on which the enrollment count was performed. Equitable Services Set-Aside amounts are based on a count of students taken during the prior year. After timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of parentally placed private school students with disabilities, the LEA must determine the number of parentally placed private school students with disabilities attending private schools located in the LEA. This count must have been conducted between **October 1 and December 1, 2019.**

### Count Date Performed

10/1/2019



Save

**The instructions for this section inform the user which count date to use.**

**For the fiscal year 2020-2021 set-aside, the enrollment count was from between October 1 and December 1 of 2019.**

## WISEgrants Application Process – Step 2

### Enter the PUBLIC SCHOOL Enrollment Numbers

Total Student with Disabilities Enrolled in PUBLIC Schools Enrollment Data

AGES 3 to 5 - Enter the total number of children eligible for special education, enrolled in the LEA's public schools, ages 3 to 5 as of October 1, 2019  
**Number of Students with Disabilities ages 3 to 5, enrolled in the public schools as of October 1**

AGES 6 to 21 - Enter the total number of children eligible for special education, enrolled in the LEA's public schools, ages 6 to 21 as of October 1, 2019  
**Number of Students with Disabilities ages 6 to 21, enrolled in the public schools as of October 1**

**This is where the public school enrollment numbers, from the prior fiscal year's October 1 child count, are entered.**

**The numbers are split between 3 to 5 year olds and 6 to 21 year olds.**

## WISEgrants Application Process – Step 3

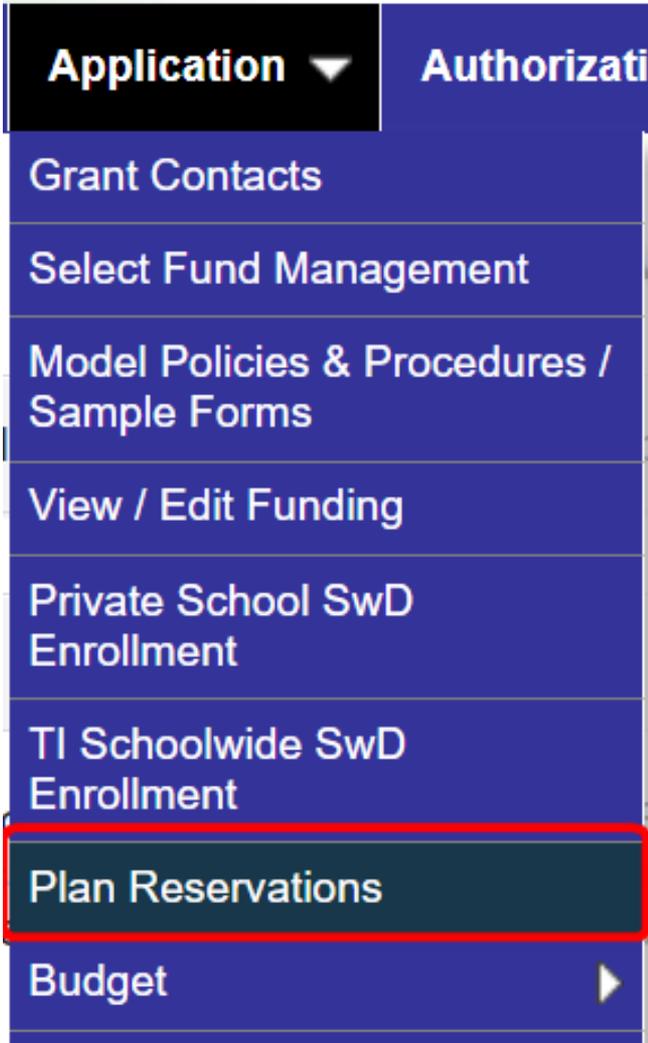
### Enter the PRIVATE SCHOOL Enrollment Numbers

Private School Code	Private School Name	Number of Students Re/Evaluated between July 1 2019 and June 30, 2020	Ages 3 to 5 - October 1, 2019 Count of Students with Disabilities Enrolled in the Private School	Ages 6 to 21 - October 1, 2019 Count of Students with Disabilities Enrolled in the Private School	Number of Students with Services Plans between July 1 2019 and June 30, 2020
0135	Bethany Evang Lutheran Sch	4	2	5	7
1500	Immanuel Evang Lutheran Gr Sch	5	2	3	7

**Number of Students Re/Evaluated:** Enter all private school student special education evaluations performed between July 1 to June 30 of the prior year.

**Number of Students with Disabilities:** Enter all students with disabilities parentally placed into private schools as of the child count date of the prior year.

**Number of Students Served:** Enter the number of students with disabilities parentally placed into private schools who received special education services between July 1 to June 30 of the prior year.



If the LEA has private schools, then the Plan Reservations section must be completed (even if the private school enrollment count is zero).

# WISEgrants Application Process – Step 4

## Enter the Required Reservations Amount

### Equitable Services - Proportionate Share Calculation

LEAs are required to spend the minimum equitable services set-aside amount within the year of the grant. Unspent funds must be carried over and spent on equitable services in the following year. If there are unspent equitable services set-aside funds from last year, the unspent amount has been added to the new minimum amount set for this year, based upon the LEA's final claims. Preschool balances are zeroed out before applying claimed amounts to flow-through.

Grant	Calculation	Current Year	Prior Year Unspent	Minimum Reservation	Reservation Amount
Flow-through	$\$1,230,233 / 882 = \$1,394.82 * 32 =$	\$44,634.30	+	\$64,486.84	\$78,305.77
Preschool	$\$42,256 / 130 = \$325.05 * 12 =$	\$3,900.55	\$0.00	\$3,900.55	\$3,900.55

Total amount claimed under the Private School program type in FY 2019-2020: \$21,390.92

The minimum equitable services reservation amount for each grant must be reserved before the flow-through or preschool budget can be entered.

## Common Issue

### Equitable Services - Proportionate Share Calculation

LEAs are required to spend the minimum equitable services set-aside amount within the year of the grant. Unspent funds must be carried over and spent on equitable services in the following year. If there are unspent equitable services set-aside funds from last year, the unspent amount has been added to the new minimum amount set for this year, based upon the LEA's final claims. Preschool balances are zeroed out before applying claimed amounts to flow-through.

Grant	Calculation	Current Year	Prior Year Unspent	Minimum Reservation	Reservation Amount
Flow-through	$\$676,928 / 36 = \$18,803.56 * 15 =$	\$282,053.33	\$6,426.18	\$288,479.51	\$27,713.22
Preschool	$\$28,096 / 12 = \$2,341.33 * 6 =$	\$14,048.00	\$0.00	\$14,048.00	\$2,675.81

Total amount claimed under the Private School program type in FY 2018-2019: \$8,565.17

If the minimum reservation appears to large, an error was made on the Private School Enrollment page (private school numbers entered into the public school counts).

## WISEgrants Application Process – Step 4

### Enter the Required Zero Enrollment Assurance

#### Equitable Services

LEAs are required to spend the minimum equitable services set-aside amount within the year of the grant. Unspent funds must be carried over and spent on equitable services in the following year. If there are unspent equitable services set-aside funds from last year, add the amount to the new minimum amount set for this year.

Calculation	Minimum	Flow-Through Amount	Preschool Amount
$\$156,064.00 / 98 = \$1,592.49 * 0 =$	\$0.00	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	
$\$5,054.00 / 16 = \$315.88 * 0 =$	\$0.00		<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>

Zero enrollment has been entered for all private schools in Abbotsford School District. Please verify that this is correct by selecting the following check box. If this is not correct please return to the [Private School SwD Enrollment](#) screen to adjust the data accordingly.

Verified by Kristopher Zachary on 8/31/2018 at 11:11 AM

**A submission of zeroes for private school enrollment generates a \$0 set-aside. LEAs must provide an additional assurance that there truly are no students with disabilities enrolled in any of the private schools in the LEA's jurisdiction.**

# Frequently Requested Clarification

## **Zero Students Last Year – Ten Students This Year**

- ❖ What's the reservation amount?

## **Ten Students Last Year – Zero Students This Year**

- ❖ What's the reservation amount?
- ❖ What are we supposed to do with it?

## **What about students who are identified after October 1?**

- ❖ Reservation amount does not change.

# WISEgrants Application Process – Step 5

## Budget for Required Equitable Services Set-Aside Amount

Personnel

The 'Program Type' identifies the cost as one that budgets against the equitable services requirement

Program Type: Private School

Position: Speech/Language Pathologist

Position Activity: Standard (Default)

Function: 156600 - Speech/Language

Salary: \$26,000.00

General Ledger Account:

Staff Name or Detailed Description:

Area: No Description Beyond Position

Object: 200 - Employee Benefits

Benefits: \$13,241.00

Cancel

Save

Save and Repeat Combo

## IDEA - Flow-through Budget - All Schools

(QA Server) 0980 - Cashton

### Personnel

Submission Personnel Purchased Services Non-Capital Objects Capital Objects Other Objects Indirect View All Sections

#### Personnel

Program Type:  +

Position:  +

Position Activity:  +

Function:  +

Salary:

General Ledger Account:

Detailed Description:

Area:

Object:

Benefits:

**The budget sidebar will track the amounts budgeted for the Program Type "Private School"**

Collapse All Expand All

#### Funding Detail

Grant: Flow-through  
Allocation: \$150,000.00  
Carryover: \$151,476.00  
Total: \$301,476.00

Flow-through Available: \$289,929.00  
Title I Schoolwide Reservation: \$11,547.00  
CEIS Reservation: \$0.00

#### Budget Overview

Flow-through Amount: \$289,929.00  
Amount Budgeted: \$216,332.00  
Amount Remaining: \$73,597.00  
Total Claimed: \$0.00  
Total Unclaimed: \$0.00

#### Budget Status

Current Status: Unlocked  
Amendment #: 2  
Last Submitted: 01/23/2016  
Last Approved / Returned: 01/23/2016

#### Budget Section Summary

#### Equitable Services Summary

Amount reserved for Equitable Services: \$18,585.00  
Amount budgeted for private school services: \$1,000.00  
Amount still required to be budgeted: \$17,585.00

# Flexibility

A reservation under preschool can be budgeted and expended out of the flow-through grant to meet the requirement.

- ❖ The LEA must still reserve the minimum required preschool amount on the reservations page.



# WISEgrants Application Process – Step 6

## Claiming Private School Expenditures

Flow-through - Claim

Report Period Ending Date: 01/31/2019

Partial Claim  Final Claim

Filter: 156600

Clear Filter

Sort by Function

Sort by Object

Program Type	Account	Object Name	Function Name	Approved Budget Amount	Total Amount Claimed to Date	Obligations	Amount Requested this Claim	Amount Remaining	Cumulative Claimed to Date
Public School	27-342-156600-341	Employee Travel	Speech/Language	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Public School	27-411-156600-341	General Supplies	Speech/Language	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Private School	27-430-156600-341	Instructional Media	Speech/Language	\$3,161.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,161.94	\$0.00

Restricted Indirect Rate: 6.00 %

Effective Indirect Rate: 0.00 %

Amount available to claim for indirect: \$0.00

Amount of indirect claimed to date: \$0.00

For bookkeeping only

Save

Submit

View PI-1086

# End of Year Required Reporting

If there is an equitable services reservation amount for flow-through and **no funds budgeted** for private school services by May 1 at the end of the fiscal year, the LEA will be required to provide information on the circumstances that led to no funds being budgeted.

This will be completed through WISEgrants. LEAs will not be able to submit budget amendments or claims until either the questions have been answered and reviewed or items have been budgeted for private school services.



# Submission

[Submission](#) [Personnel](#) [Purchased Services](#) [Non-Capital Objects](#) [Capital Objects](#) [Insurance](#) [Other Objects](#) [Indirect](#) [IDEA Equitable Services Mandatory Reporting](#)  
[View All Sections](#)

**In order to submit the IDEA - Flow-through (Flow-through) budget, complete the tasks identified here:**

A required amount of \$12,590.31 was reserved from flow-through to expend on Equitable Services for Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities. As of May 1, 2021, an amount of \$0 has been budgeted in the flow-through application for private school expenditures for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Unless items are budgeted for parentally placed private school students with disabilities in the current budget and approved, the questions in the budget section “IDEA Equitable Services Mandatory Reporting” must be answered and submitted before any further claims can be submitted.

# Monitoring – Funds Remaining

Beginning in in FY 2020-2021, DPI will begin monitoring “unspent” proportionate share amounts through WISEgrants.

	FY 2018-2019 Set-Aside	Claimed in FY 2018-2019	Claimed in FY 2019-2020
Monitoring Required	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Meeting Compliance	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$8,000

# Monitoring – Funds Remaining

- ❖ An LEA with unclaimed proportionate share set-aside funds from FY 2018-2019 will need to demonstrate that it met the requirements of equitable services or funds will be lapsed (or returned to DPI if incorrectly claimed for other expenses).
  - Submission of signed consultation affirmation forms.
  - Comparison of claimed private school expenditures and private school student disability categories.
  - Documentation of a private school's non-participation.

# Reservation Amounts – Public Posting

The amount an LEA must expend to meet its proportionate share should be readily available to the public.

[OSEP Guidance](#), “Questions and Answers on Serving Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools,” question H-6

Since WISEgrants now collects this information, the amounts are posted on the Equitable Services technical assistance page.



# Additional Technical Assistance

**Equitable Services under IDEA**

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/private-schools#equitable>

**Special Education Team Contacts**

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/local-performance-plans/contact>

