



OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors and Contacts

FROM: Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent Special Education Services

DATE: August 27, 2014

SUBJECT: **Update on Sequestration and FY2015 Allocations for School Districts Serving Children with Disabilities**

Last year, the OSDE initiated groundbreaking programs and developed resources designed to assist you in meeting the rigorous needs of your students by restoring almost \$8 million in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds to Oklahoma's LEAs by implementing cost-saving measures in our department. We informed LEAs that we could only fund these financial cuts for one year, FY 2014, so districts could have an additional year to prepare and plan for the severe cuts imposed on special education funding.

We encouraged LEAs to take proactive measures to streamline funds and creatively serve our students through business/community partnerships, innovative, data-driven strategies, and dynamic collaboration with the OSDE, so that everyone would be prepared to handle a possible new round of federal cuts.

The OSDE-SES has received firm figures for FY 2015 IDEA funding, and these allocations will be available for budgeting purposes this week. FY2014 cuts have **not** been completely restored; however, the effects of the sequestered federal funds have been minimized. Oklahoma's current Grant Award Notification documents the following:

Total FY 2015 611 Flowthrough Grant Award - \$146,448,894.00
Total Funding Cut – 0.83%
Amount available from grant to flow out to LEAs – \$127,560,000
Amount restored by the OSDE to the sequestered budget – \$2,001,414.18
Total Flowout to LEAs – \$129,561,414.18 (88.47%)
Required Flow out to LEAs – \$124,481,559.90 (85%)

*Please note that the OSDE-SES is flowing 88.47% of the total grant award to the LEAs. The OSDE-SES obligation is to flow out 85% of the grant award to LEAs. We will continue to annually review the total grant award and OSDE-SES commitments so that we might flow out maximum dollar amounts to meet the needs of LEAs as they serve students with disabilities.

2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-4599
(405)521-3301 PHONE • (405)521-6205 FAX • WWW.OK.GOV/SDE

Total FY 2015 619 Preschool Grant Award – \$3,345,422.00

Total Funding Cut – 6%

Supplemental Poverty/Population Funding not available for FY2014 and FY2015

Total Flow out to LEAs – \$3,266,124.00 (91%)

Required Flow out to LEAs – \$2,642,937.00 (74%)

*Please note that OSDE-SES is provided annual notice of the required amount to flow out to LEAs. In addition to the required amount, the OSDE-SES has also provided additional dollars through the Supplemental Poverty/Population funding in the past. The OSDE-SES did not receive dollars in that area during FFY 12 and FFY13, yet the OSDE-SES continued to flow those dollars to LEAs based on previous counts. Again, the OSDE-SES did not receive dollars in that area in FFY14 as well as receiving a 6% cut in the grant award.

You may notice a slight increase or decrease in your IDEA, Part B funding amounts. This variation in funding may be due to changes in your district's population and/or poverty counts, as well as, the minor funding cuts applied to the grant awards.

If you have additional questions or concerns about the sequestration of federal funds, please contact Ms. Anita Eccard, Director of Financial Planning at (405) 521-4865.