



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents and Special Education Directors/Contacts
FROM: Dr. Rene Axtell, Assistant State Superintendent, Special Education Services
DATE: May 9, 2012
SUBJECT: **Current Status of Tier I Funding for Out-of-State Residential Placements**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 granted states the flexibility to set aside a percent of the funds reserved for state-level activities to establish a funding mechanism that would reimburse local educational agencies (LEAs) for costs of high needs students with disabilities (34 § 300.704(c)). The out-of-state residential placement is Tier I of Oklahoma's high needs fund. Tier 2 includes funding for all other high needs students with excessive costs to the LEA.

Federal limits are placed on the amount that state education agencies (SEAs) are allowed to set aside for LEAs for the excessive costs of high needs students. Based on those limits, all high needs funds have been obligated for the 2011-2012 school year. The Tier I high needs fund is not available to reimburse costs for any new OOS residential placements; however, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) has established a waiting list. The OSDE will continue to honor current placements.

For placement on the waiting list, please complete the attached application and submit it with the required supporting documentation before the second Friday in June deadline. Upon receipt of a complete application, the LEA will be notified in writing and the request data will be added to the waiting list in the order received.

When high need funds become available, the LEA will be notified in writing within 30 days of the available funding on a "first come, first serve" basis. This will include notification of any OOS placement opening that may occur before the end of the school year due to cancellation. The LEA will actively remain on the waiting list unless circumstances change or the current application is withdrawn.

For questions related to Tier I funding, please contact Ms. Anita Eccard, Associate State Director, at (405) 521-4865.

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Bob Neel, Executive Director of Accreditation Standards
Ms. Lisa Endres, General Counsel