



CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 ASSIST PROJECT 617 FUNDS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID Assist Project 617 funds are to assist in special education recovery efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. District must ensure IDEA funds are used only to pay the excess cost of special education and related services provided to students with disabilities.

When is the deadline to apply for funding?

Project 617 opened on June 1, 2020. Districts must submit an online budget no later than August 15, 2020.

Where can I find the budget application?

Districts must sign into the GMS to create a budget. The application is listed under “IDEA Available”.

Are these funds for FY20 or FY21

Due to opening in June 2020 these funds are considered FY20 monies. Funds can carry over into FY21 and must be encumbered by June 30, 2021.

How can we use Project 617 funds?

These funds may be used in the areas listed below. However, districts must remember if purchasing technology items or supplies for all students Project 617 funds cannot be used. These funds are for excess cost only. For example, if a district has chosen to purchase chrome books for all students, then Project 617 cannot be used. If a district is purchasing chrome books for all students but special education students require a touch screen, Project 617 can be used to pay the difference. If a district is purchasing cleaning supplies or PPE and is using Project 617, those supplies must be for specifically addressing needs of special education students. If a district is purchasing cleaning supplies or PPE to be used district wide for all students, Project 617 could not be used.

- Professional Development
- Assistive Technology
- Related Services
- Stipends
- Supplies
- Contracted Services
- Tutoring

Can we pay FTE salaries using these funds?

No. These funds are only available for a short period of time. If a district were to pay FTE salaries using these funds they could be subjected to Maintenance of Effort issues.

Will I need to perform an end of year closeout?

Yes. An end of the year closeout is required to roll any remaining funds into the new fiscal year.

