

**Notes for the State Board Meeting**  
**Special Education Services**  
**September 11, 2013**

When the Special Education Services (SES) division first began to hear about the sequestration we participated in a conference call with the USDE to seek their advice about ways to support our school districts. Their guidance was to arm districts with information; assist districts with innovative planning; and make as much funding available to the districts as possible. If the OSDE could take the hit for sequestration at the State level, the districts wouldn't have to lay off personnel or downsize their programs this year.

**Our Plan in Action:**

1. We reviewed our contracts to look at services provided for State and district level activities. SES didn't want to cut services to districts if we could help it, but we had to ensure that we were reducing overall costs.
2. After the review, SES kept districts and vendors informed that our contracting procedures had changed and requested that they provide us with as much information as possible about the services that they could provide to service students with disabilities in the State. We asked them to think outside the box.
3. We combined all the services that directly served students into 10 RFPs for FY 2014. The SES informed vendors that they could bid on all or part of each RFP and we would award the contracts as all or part. Awards were made.

**The Results:**

The OSDE absorbed the entire amount of IDEA Part B sequestered funding. Districts will now be able to use this year for planning and to absorb any additional cuts that might be forthcoming with permanent sequestration.