

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – Part B (IDEA-B)**

**Section 611 – Grants to States**

**2024-2025 Program, Administrative, and Fiscal Guidelines**

**for**

**Approved Private Schools**

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*May 2024*



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

607 South Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

[www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)



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# INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – PART B (IDEA-B) SECTION 611 – GRANTS TO STATES

## I. Program Narrative Guidelines

### A. Preparing the Narrative

Proposals should be written in such a way as to show the federal funds are supplementing a viable special education program. The overall criterion to be applied in determining items which are allowable under this project is whether the program could continue if the federal funds were removed.

The IDEA-B Approved Private School (APS) narrative must accompany the project application. The narrative should begin with a concise description of the APS applicant's program, including a brief demographic description. This section should not exceed one paragraph in length.

The main body of the narrative should identify the work objectives to be accomplished, a description of the activities, and the objectives and evaluation process to be used by the APS project.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is distributing IDEA-B grant funds to the approved private schools using PDE's Grant Agreement System.

Applicants are advised that the funds received as a result of this project may only support supplemental services for eligible students, as defined by both federal regulations governing IDEA and Chapter 14, Special Education Services and Programs, for whom PDE pays tuition and who have been placed at an APS.

Job descriptions are required for all salaried personnel funded with IDEA-B funds. The job description should also include the qualifications the position requires. Please attach job descriptions for all salaried personnel funded through this project as well as job descriptions and resumes for all consultants as an appendix to the Program Narrative. Job descriptions for psychiatrists and physicians are not required.

No full-time staff member presently paid with school funds may be included among paid project staff unless:

1. The staff member will receive extra compensation for working evenings, weekends or other days that are not included as part of the school calendar; or
2. The school has hired an additional staff member using general funds to assume either part or all of the responsibilities formerly assigned to that person.

In either case, full documentation will be required. Federal regulations require that time and attendance or equivalent records must support payrolls for each individual employee charged to the project. Salaries and wages paid to employees chargeable to more than one grant program or source of funds must be supported by appropriate time and distribution records.

## B. Final Narrative Reports

All projects are required to submit a final narrative report to PDE's eGrants website at <https://www.mypdeapps.pa.gov/> within 60 days following the last day of the project year. The report should be concisely written and include the number of students who participated in project activities.

## C. Additional Requirements

1. Out-of-state travel paid with project funds is prohibited unless prior approval is received from PDE's Bureau of Special Education.
2. Rental of facilities owned by the school or a corporation of which the school is an affiliate is prohibited. Copies of rental contracts must accompany project applications.
3. Equipment having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000 per unit may not be purchased without prior PDE approval.

Questions about the program guidelines or other program requirements should be directed to:

Dr. Carole L. Clancy  
Bureau of Special Education  
717-783-6880  
[caclancy@pa.gov](mailto:caclancy@pa.gov)

## II. Overview of the Grant Agreement Documents

The grantee will adhere to all federal and state regulations and guidelines relating to the program funded under the Grant Agreement which constitute the conditions upon which these program funds are allocated. The Program Guidelines issued by the PDE Bureau of Special Education (BSE) are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the Agreement, and all the terms, conditions and provisions of the Program Guidelines will apply to the Agreement.

### **Grant Agreement System**

The Grant Agreement System includes the following elements:

- PDE Master Standard Terms and Conditions
- Individual Grant Agreements
- Special Program Terms (Appendix A)
- Grantee's Program Narrative and Summary Budget (Appendix B)
- Payment Terms, Responsibilities and Contact Information (Appendix C)
- General Education Provisions Act 427
- Reconciliation of Cash on Hand Quarterly Report
- Final Expenditure Report for Federal/State Program Funds
- Standard Payment System

PDE permits electronic signatures (e-signatures) on the eGrants APS application documents. The use of e-signatures is completely voluntary under law. If the APS elects not to participate, the APS will still be able to print and manually sign the application documents. An APS wishing to use e-Signatures must have their governing body (board of directors or board of trustees) adopt resolutions identifying and authorizing the chief school administrator or authorized representative to sign electronic agreements with PDE.

Manually-signed APS application documents must be signed by the chief school administrator or an authorized representative of the APS. Documentation indicating that the signatory is authorized to sign contracts is required in one of the following four ways: (1) a copy of the minutes of the Board of Trustees indicating that the person was authorized to sign contracts; (2) a copy of board by-laws indicating that the person was authorized to sign contracts; (3) a signed certification by the Secretary of the Board that either minutes or by-laws exist that authorize the signatory to sign; or (4) a letter signed by appropriate board officers indicating that they ratify the signature of the individual who signed the contract.

All APS application documents must be submitted on or before the grant/project start date via PDE's eGrants website at <https://www.mypdeapps.pa.gov/>. If technical assistance is required with the eGrants website, you may contact the help desk at [ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov), 717-783-1087.

Hard copies of e-signed APS application documents should not be mailed to PDE. Manually-signed APS application documents should be scanned as an attachment via email to Angela Lengle at [anlengle@pa.gov](mailto:anlengle@pa.gov).

### **III. Administrative Guidelines**

All grant/project applications include Grant Agreements. The start date for the project will be July 1, 2024. Federal regulations prohibit obligation or expenditure of funds prior to the beginning date of the grant/project.

Grantees that submit timely, substantially approved applications shall have a 27-month period in which they may obligate the funds under the Agreement (July 1, 2024 – Sept. 30,2026). Accordingly, the grantee is authorized to expend funds in 15 months (July 1, 2024 – Sept. 30,2025) to cover the cost of the program provided under the Grant Agreement. Any additional carryover funds will be extended an additional 12 months (October 1, 2025 – September 30,2026) upon approval by PDE. These funds must be obligated prior to Sept. 30,2026. Any carryover funds not so obligated must be returned to PDE within 60 days of the termination of the Grant Agreement.

The IDEA-B Grant Agreement Program Application for Direct Services includes the following items:

#### **A. Grant Agreement**

“Grant Agreement for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 - Part B, P.L. 108-446, 118 Stat. 2647, 20 U.S.C. §§1411 (e)(2)(C)(i)” appropriately completed, and either e-signed or manually signed by the chief school administrator or authorized representative of the grantee.

#### **B. Special Program Terms (Appendix A)**

### **C. Grantee’s Program Narrative and Summary Budget (Appendix B)**

An “IDEA-B P.L. 108-446 Grant Agreement Program Narrative and Summary Budget” completed in accordance with the 2021-22 Program Narrative, Administrative and Fiscal Guidelines. The Grant Agreement Program Narrative and Summary Budget is incorporated into the Grant Agreement as Appendix B.

### **D. Payment Terms, Responsibilities, and Contact Information (Appendix C)**

### **E. General Education Provisions Act Section 427**

### **F. Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Sub-recipient Data Sheet**

The Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Sub-recipient Data Sheet is located in the eGrants application system at <https://www.mypdeapps.pa.gov/>. The grant application cannot be submitted if all the required fields on the Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Sub-recipient Data Sheet are not completed.

## **IV. Fiscal Guidelines**

### **A. Payments**

After the Grant Agreement is approved, payments are initiated in the Financial Accounting Information (FAI) system. The approved funding allocation is divided into equal monthly payments based on the duration of the project. The payment is sent to the grantee each month for the duration of the project.

A monthly payment detail report is available in the FAI web system. Grantees must establish security clearance through PDE’s website before accessing the FAI web system. If assistance is required, in order to access PDE’s website and/or the FAI web system, contact the help desk at [ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-egrantshelp@pa.gov), 717-783-1087.

#### **Note:**

The project payment system does not process an automatic monthly payment once the project end date has passed. Projects with payments remaining in their schedule will not automatically receive a monthly payment in the next cycle if the end date has passed. For example, a project ending September 30 with one monthly payment remaining in the schedule will not receive an automated monthly payment in October. Outstanding project balances will be processed for payment based on an approved Final Expenditure

Report. Project grantees are advised to submit their Final Expenditure Report in a timely manner.

## **B. Reconciliation of Cash On Hand Quarterly Report**

The purpose of this report is to ascertain that the scheduled payments are adequate to cover the monthly cash needs of the grantee without allowing substantial cash reserves to accumulate at the local level. Grantees may also use the report to alert the Office of Comptroller Operations about any extraordinary cash needs it may have in any month of the quarter for which the report is being filed.

### **1. Filing Requirements**

All grant recipients are required to submit their quarterly reports electronically using the FAI system. A Reconciliation of Cash On Hand Quarterly Report is to be electronically submitted to the Office of Comptroller Operations, Federal Accounting Division, on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> working day of the month after the quarter ends (October, January, April and July). Electronic reports are considered delinquent if submitted after the 10<sup>th</sup> working day. The Office of Comptroller Operations' work calendar is used to determine the 10<sup>th</sup> working day of the month. Paper copies of the Reconciliation of Cash On Hand Quarterly Report are not accepted, processed or returned.

If the quarterly cash report is not received by the 10<sup>th</sup> working day, the Grant Agreement payment(s) will be suspended until such time as the report is received and processed for payments. Quarterly reports are required only after funds have been received. For example, funds received in January require a quarterly report submission on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> working day in April. Also, a quarterly report is not required for Grant Agreements having received all of their scheduled monthly payments and/or for the final fiscal quarter of the Grant Agreement.

### **2. Excess Cash**

A cash surplus exists when a quarterly cash report shows cash on hand that exceeds one monthly payment by one dollar. If the surplus cannot be satisfactorily explained or justified, future payment(s) will be suspended until the excess cash is used. The Office of Comptroller Operations will make the final determination as to whether or not the extraordinary cash needs are properly explained and justified. Extraordinary cash needs are defined as cash requirements that are materially more than the regularly scheduled monthly payment(s).

### **3. Cash Deficit**

A cash deficit exists when a quarterly cash report shows cash on hand that is less than zero. A cash deficit greater than 50 percent of the scheduled monthly payment will initiate accelerated payment(s) to compensate for the cash deficit. A Grant Agreement experiencing a cash deficit may also have extraordinary cash needs. In this situation, extraordinary cash needs that are properly explained and justified may



result in additional accelerated payments. The Office of Comptroller Operations will make the final determination as to whether or not the extraordinary cash needs are properly explained and justified.

Questions regarding FAI payments and/or quarterly reports should be sent to the Comptroller's office email resource account at [ra-faiecs@pa.gov](mailto:ra-faiecs@pa.gov).

## **C. Budget Revisions and Funding Adjustments**

### **1. Budget Revision**

A budget revision is a change to the program budget that does not increase or decrease the grant (budget) amount within the terms of the Grant Agreement. The purpose of a budget revision is to transfer funds from cost functions or object codes to other cost functions or object codes.

A project budget revision is required when:

- There is a variance in any major category of expenditure that exceeds 10 percent of the category amount in the approved budget, and that variance exceeds \$10,000; or
- A transfer of funds is to be made to a previously unbudgeted category.

A major category of expenditure, for purposes of these project grants, is considered to be a Cost Function Total or a Major Object Code Total. To determine if a budget revision is needed, check the Summary Budget. If a row or column total will exceed 10 percent of the approved Summary Budget row or column totals, and the amount of the variance will exceed \$10,000, then a budget revision is necessary.

### **2. Funding Increase**

PDE shall notify the grantee in writing of any funding increases under the Agreement. Upon receipt of the written notice, the grantee shall revise and submit a revised Program Summary Budget and if necessary, any revised pages of the narrative which shall reflect the increase of funds. Funding increases will take effect upon the commonwealth's receipt and approval of the revised documents, which shall be incorporated in and made part of the Agreement.

### **3. Funding Decrease**

PDE shall notify the grantee in writing of any funding decreases under the Agreement. Upon receipt of the written notice, the grantee shall revise and submit a revised Program Summary Budget and if necessary, any revised pages of the narrative which shall reflect the decrease of funds. Funding decreases will take effect upon the commonwealth's receipt and approval of the revised documents, which shall be incorporated in and made part of the Agreement.

### **4. Due Dates**

- a. Funding adjustment documents involving a funding increase/decrease shall be due on the date specified at the time of PDE's written notification of a funding adjustment.
- b. All 2024-25 budget revisions are due on or before May 1, 2025.

The budget revision/funding adjustment documents must be completed and submitted to PDE's eGrants website at <https://www.mypdeapps.pa.gov/>.

#### **D. Final Expenditure Report**

The Final Expenditure Report (FER) is a report of the actual project expenditures. The FER and Final Program Narrative and Summary Budget must be completed and submitted no later than Nov. 30, 2025, in PDE's eGrants website at <https://www.mypdeapps.pa.gov/>.

FERs must be either e-signed or manually signed by the chief school administrator or authorized representative of the APS. Hard copies of e-signed FERs should not be mailed to PDE. Manually-signed FERs should be scanned as an attachment via email to Angela Lengle at [anlengle@pa.gov](mailto:anlengle@pa.gov).

If circumstances will prevent the grantee from completing the report within 60 calendar days of the grant agreement termination date, a written request for an extension may be made. The written request must include the reason the extension is needed and must be received prior to the 60-day due date.

The FER provides a section for computing the reconciliation of project funding received from the commonwealth with project expenditures. If a refund is due to the commonwealth, a refund check should be attached to the FER. If a final payment is due to the grantee, the payment is processed by the Office of Comptroller Operations after they receive the approved FER from PDE.

Actual expenditures that were not approved in the project application budget or budget revision may be disallowed. Additionally, actual expenditures in any major category of expenditure that exceed 10 percent of the category amount in the approved budget and the amount of variance exceeds \$10,000, without prior approval, may also be disallowed. Variances of this nature should be fully explained.

#### **E. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards - 2 CFR Part 200**

The Cash Management Act of 1990 governs interest earned on federal funds. The specific policies for federal programs administered and funded by the U.S. Department of Education are promulgated in 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

##### **1. Administrative Requirements**

###### **a. Payment - 2 CFR §200.305**

- 1) Grantees must maintain advance payments of federal awards in interest-bearing accounts unless the following apply [see 2 CFR §200.305(b)(8)]:
  - i. The grantee receives less than \$120,000 in federal awards per year.
  - ii. The best reasonably available interest-bearing account would not be expected to earn interest in excess of \$500 per year on federal cash balances.

- iii. The depository would require an average or minimum balance so high that it would not be feasible within the expected Federal and non-Federal cash resources.
  - iv. A foreign government or banking system prohibits or precludes interest bearing accounts.
- 2) Grantees may retain interest earned on advance payments up to \$500 in the aggregate per year for administrative expenses. Interest in excess of \$500 must be remitted annually to the Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System (PMS) using either Automated Clearing House (ACH) network or Fedwire Funds Service payment [see 2 CFR §200.305(b)(9)]. The remittance must be submitted as follows:
- i. For ACH Returns:
    - PSC ACH Routing Number: 051036706
    - PSC DFI Accounting Number: 303000
    - Bank Name and Location: Credit Gateway-ACH Receiver  
St. Paul, MN
  - ii. For Fedwire Returns\*:
    - Fedwire Routing Number: 021030004
    - Agency Location Code (ALC): 75010501
    - Bank Name and Location: Federal Reserve Bank Treas NYC/Funds  
Transfer Division  
New York, NY

\*Please note that the grantee may be incurred a charge by their financial institution for Fedwire payments.

- iii. For grantees who do not have electronic remittance capability, interest may be returned using only the U.S. Postal Service; a check should be made payable to "The Department of Health and Human Services." The check must be mailed to:

HHS Program Support Center  
P.O. Box 979132  
St. Louis, MO 63197

Additional information/instructions may be found on the Payment Management System (PMS) website at <https://pms.psc.gov/>

b. Methods of Procurement for Federal Funds – 2 CFR §200.320

One of the following methods of procurement must be used to acquire supplies/goods or services:

- 1) Micro-purchases procurement – Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services where the aggregate amount of the procurement does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the price is reasonable.
- 2) Small purchase procurement procedures – Small purchase procurements are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing

services or goods/supplies that do not exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (currently, \$250,000). For these purchases, written or documented price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources (at least three). The following are the thresholds for small purchase procurements:

- i. Goods/supplies: > \$10,000 but < \$20,100
  - ii. Services: > \$10,000 but ≤ \$250,000
- 3) Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising) – Bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed contract is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest price. The following are the thresholds for sealed bid procurements:
- i. Goods/supplies: \$20,100 or more
  - ii. Services: \$250,000 or more
- 4) Procurement by competitive proposals – Competitive proposals for services are conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids.
- 5) Procurement by non-competitive proposals – Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:
- i. The goods/supplies or services are available only from a single source (sole source);
  - ii. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation.
  - iii. The awarding federal agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the non-federal entity; or
  - iv. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

For additional procurement standards, see 2 CFR §§ 200.317- 200.326 at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl).  
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c. Equipment

Equipment, as defined in 2 CFR §200.33, is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000 per unit.

The use, management, and disposition of equipment shall be in accordance with 2 CFR §200.313.

## **2. Cost Principles – Compensation-personal services 2 CFR §200.430**

- a. Charges for salaries and wages must be based on records (time and effort) that accurately reflect the work performed [see 2 CFR §200.430(i)(1)]. These records must:
  - 1) Be supported by a system of internal control to insure that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated;
  - 2) Be incorporated into the official records of the grantee.
  - 3) Reasonably reflect the total activity for which the employee is compensated by the grantee, not to exceed 100 percent.
  - 4) Cover both federal and non-federal activities comply with established accounting policies and practices.
  - 5) Support distribution of employee's salary or wages among specific activities or cost objectives; and,
  - 6) Comply with established accounting policies and practices.
- b. The following supporting documentation is required to accurately reflect the work performed:
  - 1) Where employees are expected to work solely on a single federal award or cost objective, charges for their salaries and wages will be supported by semi-annual certifications that the employees worked solely on that program for the period covered by the certification. These certifications will be prepared semi-annually and will be signed by the employee or supervisory official having first-hand knowledge of the work performed by the employee.
  - 2) Where employees work on multiple activities or cost objectives, a distribution of their salaries or wages will be supported by personnel activity reports or equivalent documentation that reflects an after-the-fact distribution of the actual activity of each employee, accounts for the total activity for which the employee is compensated, is prepared at least monthly and coincides with one or more pay periods, and is signed by the employee.

## **3. Audit Requirements**

The grantee must comply with all federal and state audit requirements including: the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200, and any other applicable law or regulation and any amendment to such other applicable law or regulation which may be enacted or promulgated by the federal government.

A grantee that expends total federal awards of \$750,000 or more during its fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR §200.501.

If the grantee expends total federal awards of less than \$750,000, it is exempt from federal audit requirements for that year, but records must be available for review or audit by appropriate officials (or designees) of the federal agency, pass-through entity, and Government Accountability Office (GAO).

For additional audit requirements information, please refer to PDE's Master Standard Terms and Conditions at [www.education.pa.gov/mstc](http://www.education.pa.gov/mstc). Technical assistance regarding an entity's specific audit requirements may be obtained from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Budget, Bureau of Audits at 717-783-9120.

Questions about the guidelines or the grant agreement application may be referred to:

Holly Fan  
Bureau of Special Education  
717-346-9644  
[zfan@pa.gov](mailto:zfan@pa.gov)

Carla Alfieri  
Bureau of Special Education  
717-346-0724  
[calfieri@pa.gov](mailto:calfieri@pa.gov)