

High Cost Services Webinar

2025-2026 School Year



October 2, 2025

Agenda

- High Cost Services Overview
- Allowable and Unallowable Costs
- Eligible Amount Requested
- Allocation Methodology
- Application Process
- Timelines
- Questions

If you are experiencing audio difficulties, please make sure that your speakers are on and that your volume is at a suitable level.

Please type questions into the Q&A or chat box as we go along.

Dial in by phone: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 942 3693 1773



High Cost Services Overview



Overview of High Cost Services

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund was established to support school systems who serve students with disabilities with the most difficult needs.

Student eligibility criteria:

- Age 3-21 with an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- The total cost to educate the student must exceed three times the average per pupil expenditure (\$17,688).

$$3 \times \$17,688 = \textbf{\$53,064}$$

- All costs for which the school system requests reimbursement are explicitly stated in the student's IEP.



Overview of High Cost Services

The HCS fund includes two rounds:

Round 1: Students enrolled in the previous school year **and** currently enrolled.

Round 2: New students who joined your school system from July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025.

HCS Cycle	Enrollment Period	Threshold Eligibility
Round 1	7/1/24 -6/30/25 (SY 24-25)	\$53,064 spent in SY 24-25
Round 2	7/1/25 -9/30/25 (SY 25-26)	\$53,064 projected in SY 25-26

Overview of High Cost Services

HCS funds are **student specific** and cannot be used to support other students.

- If the student approved for funds no longer needs the services designated in the application, or if the student withdraws or transfers to another school system, the school system that was allocated funds must notify the LDOE in writing no later than 10 days after the student's status changes.
- The school system that received funds will not be eligible to retain any remaining unobligated or unexpended funds.



Overview of High Cost Services

Any remaining unobligated or unexpended funds will follow the student who transfers to any school system within the state if the system or school requests or confirms the need for funds.

Any specialized equipment purchased with HCS funds will follow the student to any school system within the state and shall become part of the receiving school system's inventory list.

LDOE staff will monitor High Cost Services and student jurisdiction through the Special Education Reporting (SER) system and other auditing systems.



Allowable and Unallowable Costs



Allowable Costs

Details about allowable and unallowable costs can be found in the [2025-2026 High Cost Services State Plan](#).

Even if an allowable cost, the materials, services, supports, and personnel **must be documented and clearly described** in the student's IEP in order to be eligible for reimbursement.



Allowable Costs

Certified teachers or interpreters in specific low incidence disability areas, e.g., Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Visual Impairment, where students are receiving the majority of their services from a generically certified special education teacher. Both specialty teachers, interpreters, and any 1:1 teachers must be described on the IEP.

One-on-one or two-on-one paraprofessional support to address the student's high cost services. The terms "child specific aide" or "1:1 or 2:1 paraprofessional" must be indicated on the IEP.

Special transportation costs are limited to personnel, equipment, or services required for the specific high need cost as identified on the IEP. Any transportation costs not specific to the high need student or prorated for this student are unallowable. Services must be provided directly to the student and must be clearly described on the IEP under "Special Transportation."

Allowable Costs

Specialized equipment or supplies. The specialized equipment and supplies must be described in the student's IEP.

Specialized training for staff, described in the student's IEP, needed to implement the student's high cost services.

Related services, such as nursing services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language pathology, educational interpreters, mental health professional counselor that are above and beyond what the majority of students in the school are receiving. **A typical service delivery model is considered to be 30 minutes twice a week, therefore the related service has to be above and beyond this.**

Unallowable Costs

Basic classroom costs, such as teachers, curriculum, materials and supplies, transportation (other than student specific special transportation as described in the IEP) and other routine costs associated with the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities.

The salary and benefits of a bus driver are not reimbursable if the student qualifying as high cost and other students (not qualifying as high cost) are on the bus at the same time. Any transportation costs not specific to the high need student or prorated for this student are unallowable.

Related services costs that are provided at the same level as all other students with disabilities. For example, **a typical service delivery model is 30 minutes twice a week.**

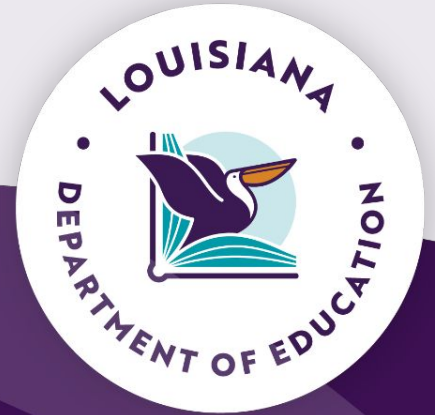
Unallowable Costs

Construction costs such as buildings and sidewalks.

Legal fees, court costs or other costs associated with a cause of action brought on behalf of a student with a disability to ensure a FAPE for the child.

School systems may not use IDEA funds to pay for medical services eligible under the State Medicaid Program per guidance from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Eligible Amount Requested for Reimbursement



Eligible Amount Requested for Reimbursement

eGMS will indicate the amount of eligible reimbursement for each student based on the total cost amount entered to educate the student in the prior year (2024-2025) compared to the eligibility criteria of the grant.

The average per pupil amount (\$17,688) is subtracted from the eligibility criteria a student must meet to be eligible to participate in the grant (\$53,064).

The remaining balance is subtracted from the total cost to educate the student in the previous year to populate the amount that can be requested for reimbursement.

Eligible Amount Requested for Reimbursement

Example: If the total cost to educate the student in the prior year was \$70,000, the school system may apply for reimbursement of up to \$34,624.

The average per pupil amount (\$17,688) is subtracted from the eligibility criteria a student must meet to be eligible to participate in the grant (\$53,064).

The remaining balance (\$35,376) is subtracted from the total cost to educate the student in the previous year (\$70,000) to populate the amount that can be requested for reimbursement: \$34,624.



Allocation Methodology



Allocation Methodology

The LDOE assembles a team to review all applications to determine allowable and eligible costs for each student.

For each school system, the eligible costs are totaled and used to calculate the Percent Impact on the budget of the school system.

The Percent Impact will be ranked from highest to lowest within the two separate categories: school systems and other public schools.



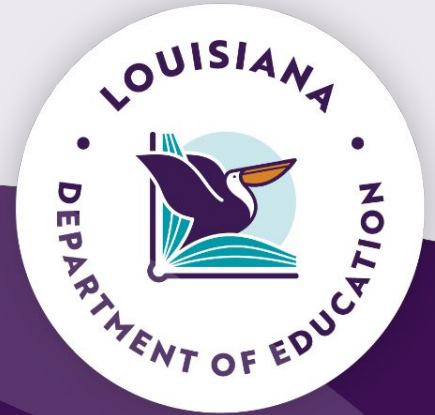
HCS Procedural Safeguards

HCS funds are not intended to replace any existing federal, state, or local special education funds.

HCS funds are student specific and cannot be used to support other students.

- Specialized equipment purchased with HCS funds will follow the student to any school system or school.
- If the student approved for funds no longer needs the services, or if the student withdraws or transfers to another school system, the school system that was allocated funds must notify the LDOE.
- Remaining funds will follow the student who transfers to any school system if the new school system requests or confirms the need for the funds.

Application Process



Application Process

The HCS application is included as a competitive application in eGMS.

HCS Contact Information and Assurances must be completed to access the application. Once completed, the HCS Round 1 tab will show up in the Competitive section on your eGMS Access Select page.

HCS Rnd 1

Submissions due by 11/11/2025

Create



Application Process

School systems will enter information for students for whom they will submit applications in the Student Data tabs.

School systems can submit applications for up to 60 students in Round 1 and up to 36 students in Round 2.

Student names and other personally identifiable information (PII) are not allowed. School systems must use the student's state ID (LASID). The student identifier field is where you will enter the student's state ID.

Materials, services, supports, and personnel requested in the application must match the information in the student's current IEP.



Step 1: Complete the basic information for the student.

Step 1: Complete the basic information for the student.



Student Data Pages

Step 2: Enter the total amount spent on the student in the 2024-2025 school year. In order for the student to be eligible, this amount must exceed **\$53,064**.

Step 3: The application will automatically calculate the maximum request amount.

Student 1

Student Identifier: 1234567890

School Attended: Pelican Elementary

Sex: Female Male

Exceptionality(ies): Developmental Delay

Date Student Enrolled in LEA: (mm/dd/yyyy) 8/12/2024

Student 1 Description of Services

The description should include an itemized list of the specialized equipment, supplies, services, and personnel necessary to provide a free appropriate public education to the student. For eligible and ineligible costs, refer to the Louisiana High Cost Services State Plan.

The total amount requested for the student must be \$53,064, three times greater than the average per pupil amount of \$17,688.

Costs for related service providers should be estimated based on amount of service hours on the student's IEP. (E.g. Student receives physical therapy 60 minutes four times a week. Cost for physical therapy for the student is estimated to be \$400 per week or \$14,400 for the school year.)

Costs for materials and services should be prorated according to the specific use of the student. (E.g. Three students share assistive technology throughout the school day. Cost of assistive technology should be divided by three to determine cost per student. If the student has his/her own assistive technology device that is not shared by other students, the total cost can be budgeted to that student.)

All listed services/supports must be documented in the student's IEP.

Materials, services, supports and personnel:

Child specific para

Estimated Cost:

23,624

Section of IEP:

General Student Information

Total Estimated Costs: 23,624

Total amount spent on Student 1 education in 2024-2025. Must be more than \$53,064. 59,000

Maximum Requested Amount for Student 1: 23,624

Student Data Pages

Step 4: Based on that maximum request amount, school systems will then list the services, personnel, materials, and support for which reimbursement is requested. This includes indicating the section of the IEP in which LDOE reviewers can find the activities described. The sum total of these activities must match the maximum request amount.



Student Data Pages

Student 1		School Attended:	Pelican Elementary
Student Identifier:	1234567890	Exceptionality(ies):	Developmental Delay
Sex:	Female ☒ Male ☐	Date Student Enrolled in LEA: (mm/dd/yyyy)	8/12/2024

Student 1 Description of Services

- The description should include an itemized list of the specialized equipment, supplies, services, and personnel necessary to provide a free appropriate public education to the student. For eligible and ineligible costs, refer to the Louisiana High Cost Services State Plan.
- The total amount requested for the student must be \$53,064, three times greater than the average per pupil amount of \$17,688.
- Costs for related service providers should be estimated based on amount of service hours on the student's IEP.
(E.g. Student receives physical therapy 60 minutes four times a week. Cost for physical therapy for the student is estimated to be \$400 per week or \$14,400 for the school year.)
- Costs for materials and services should be prorated according to the specific use of the student.
(E.g. Three students share assistive technology throughout the school day. Cost of assistive technology should be divided by three to determine cost per student. If the student has his/her own assistive technology device that is not shared by other students, the total cost can be budgeted to that student.)
- All listed services/supports must be documented in the student's IEP.

Materials, services, supports and personnel:

Child specific para	Estimated Cost:	Section of IEP:
	23,624	General Student Information ▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
		▼
Total Estimated Costs:	23,624	

Total amount spent on Student 1 education in 2024-2025. Must be more than \$53,064.	59,000	Maximum Requested Amount for Student 1:	23,624
---	--------	--	--------

Process Before Submission

School systems should verify the following information before submitting the application:

- **Enrollment in EdLink 360 align with HCS enrollment requirements.**
 - Round 1: Enrollment from previous school year with the school system **and** current enrollment in the school system.
 - Round 2: Students should have an enrollment date between 7/1/25-9/30/25.
- **Budget items in the application are clearly documented in the students' IEPs.**
- **Student IDs are accurate.**



Submission

Step 5: Once the application is complete, click the “Submit” button.

Overview	Student Data	Allocations	Approved Student Data	Budget Detail	Budget Summary	Submit
Students 1-24			Students 25-48			
Students 1-3	Students 4-6	Students 7-9	Students 10-12	Students 13-15		

High Cost Services - Student Data

Process After Submission

There are several layers to the review process for the original application:

- **Preliminary Review**
- **Allocation Development**
- **Assigned Allocations**
- **Final Review**

Upon approval of final review, an amendment can be created to submit the budget.

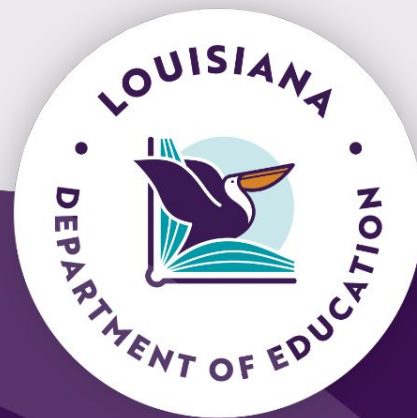


Amendments

Creating an amendment:

- On the Access/Select page, select the “Amend” button.
- Once the amendment opens, use the “Page Lock Control” tab to unlock the pages needed.
- On the Page Lock Control tab, select “Expand All”. Select the pages that need to be unlocked to complete the budget.
- Complete the Budget Detail tab.
- Run a Consistency Check (located on the “Submit” tab).
- Once the application passes the consistency check, “Submit to LDE” for review.

Timelines



Round 1 Timeline

Tentative Schedule	Action Item
October 6	Application Opens
November 11	Application Closes
October 6 - December 29	Preliminary Review
January 2 - February 4	Allocation Development
February 5 - February 12	Allocations Assigned in eGMS
February 13 - February 23	Final Review
February 24 - June 30	Amendments Submitted

Round 2 Timeline

Tentative Schedule	Action Item
Early December	Application Opens
Mid January	Application Closes

Questions?

Programmatic Questions
ashley.augustine@la.gov

Application Questions
ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov

