

Louisiana Believes

High Cost Services Allocation
Round 2
2014-2015

High Cost Services (HCS) Overview

The Department is committed to ensuring all students receive a high quality education. In order to support LEAs with serving the hardest to serve students, the Department developed the High Cost Services Grant to provide financial assistance for educating special education students with high cost needs.

High Cost Services (HCS) Overview

- The 2014-2015 HCS Grant application process was split into two sessions to account for students who have high cost needs and enter LEAs after the initial allocations have been made
- Over 400 students received awards during the first round of allocations totaling to \$8m of funds across LEAs
- Round 1 of the HCS process is in the budget phase and districts should log into EGMS to enter budgets for the specific students who were approved for allocations.
- LDOE has \$400,000 IDEA dollars for round 2 allocations. Applications for these funds are available in eGMS through December 19th and are reserved for students who entered the LEA after June 30, 2014.

Definition of a High Cost Student

Students are eligible for round 2 HCS funds if they meet the following criteria:

- The student enrolled in the LEA after the round 1 application closed (after June 30, 2014)- this may include (but is not limited to) students who transferred from another state or students who are entering the first grade level of the LEA
- The cost to educate and provide services to the student **exceeds** three times the average per pupil cost of \$11,277. **3 x \$11,277 = \$33,831**
- The cost to educate and provide services to the student has a significant impact on the overall budget of the LEA.
- All costs in the application are linked to the student's IEP with other supporting documentation like the educational evaluation, individual health plan, or behavior intervention plan.

Eligible vs. Ineligible Costs

Eligible and ineligible costs include, but may not be limited to:

Eligible	Ineligible
One-to-one nursing services and paraprofessional support	Basic costs of the classroom, such as materials and supplies, and routine transportation
Special transportation and/or special transportation aide	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
Specialized equipment or training such as wheelchairs, assistive technology, or specialized equipment	Costs that otherwise would be reimbursed as medical assistance for a child with a disability under the State Medicaid program
Related services, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, etc.	

Application Process- General Information

- Applications are due by **December 19**, 2014.
- Applicants should complete all parts of the HCS application in eGMS to be considered for HCS funds.
- Must target **new** students who have entered the LEA (school district or school) on **July 1, 2014** or after.
- The LEAs are responsible for submitting additional information in the application such as the evaluation, health plan or behavior plan unless they have been uploaded into SER in the Supporting Documentation window. The most current IEP will be viewed in SER.

Allocation Methodology

1. Applications will be reviewed to determine eligibility.
2. Allowable costs will be determined for each student.
3. After reducing the allowable costs by the amount of MFP funding available, the financial impact to the applicant 's budget will be determined.
4. Applications will be ranked based on the percent impact of the allowable costs to the applicant's budget.
5. Four tiers of impact will be established and a funding percentage assigned to each tier.
6. Recommended allocations will be presented to BESE for approval.

Note: Even other MFP funds are not being used, the methodology is the same.

HCS Procedural Safeguards

- HCS funds are student specific and cannot be used to support other students.
- Any specialized equipment purchased with HCS funds will follow the student to any LEA within the state.
- If the student approved for funds no longer needs the services designated in the application, or if the student withdraws or transfers to another LEA, the LEA that was allocated funds must notify the LDOE.
- Remaining funds will follow the student who transfers to any LEA within the state, if the LEA requests the funds.
- The IDEA funds must be obligated by September 30, 2015. All unused funds will revert to the LDOE after the liquidation period ending on November 15, 2015.

Questions?

Contact Nancy.Hicks@la.gov with questions regarding:

- Student eligibility
- Application process
- Round 1 allocation status for students who recently transferred to the LEA