

What is the purpose of this allocation?

High Cost Services allocations provide additional funds to local public school districts and other public schools that serve disabled students with extraordinarily high-cost needs. The allocations are funded through three sources: (1) federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds, (2) state MFP formula funds, and (3) other state revenue funds. Without these allocations, schools find it extremely difficult to provide individualized supports and services necessary for these students to thrive in the education setting.

How should this revenue be recorded in the AFR?

1. Federal IDEA funds should be recorded in KPC 10200
2. State MFP formula funds should be recorded in KPC 4300
3. Other state revenue funds should be recorded in KPC 6250

What is the total amount of funding available for this allocation?

The total amount available for this allocation is \$13.4 million,

- \$4 million from the MFP formula,
- \$5.4 million from other state revenue (new funds) and
- \$4 million from federal IDEA funds.

What is the period of availability and deadline for filing claims for each funding source in the HCS allocation?

1. The MFP formula funds have a period of availability of 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016. These funds must be obligated by 6/30/16 and claimed by the deadline set for claiming state funds, generally July 15th each year. Any funds unexpended or unclaimed will revert to the state treasury.
2. The other state revenue funds have a period of availability of 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016. These funds must be obligated by 6/30/16 and claimed by the deadline set for claiming state funds, generally July 15th each year. Any funds unexpended or unclaimed will revert to the state treasury.
3. Federal IDEA funds have a period of availability of 7/1/2015 – 9/30/2016. These funds must be obligated by 9/30/16 and claimed by the deadline set for claiming federal funds, generally November 15th each year. Any funds unexpended or unclaimed will be reallocated to prior year IDEA B 611 allocations when current year final allocations are calculated.

How will the reimbursement of funds be processed in eGMS?

eGMS will be programmed to automatically pull MFP formula funds first, other state funds second and IDEA funds last. There is no need to submit reimbursement requests by fund source.

How does a shift from general funds to HCS funds in expenditures for high cost students impact IDEA MOE?

There are several exceptions or adjustments allowed when calculating compliance with IDEA MOE. Once such exception is the movement of costs from general funds to funds provided through a high cost allocation. You may identify this as an exception when reporting your MOE information in eGMS. Additionally, the staff working on MOE compliance is aware of this exception and will be monitoring this item to ensure that the exception is applied as appropriate.

Are these funds automatically provided to every local school district and other public school?

No. Applications were required in order to identify and document high cost services needs.

What were the application requirements for this allocation?

Any public school district or school is eligible to apply for this allocation on behalf of any student, age 3 to 21, who qualifies for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Costs are eligible to be funded with the HCS allocation if the cost of services for one student exceeds three times the average state per pupil expenditure. The average per pupil expenditure is \$11,113. Applications could be submitted for a student if the cost to educate the student exceeds \$33,339.

How many local school districts and other public schools applied for these funds?

Applications were received from 86 entities for these funds, 44 local school districts and 42 other public schools. See attachment for list of applicants.

What was the number of student applications submitted?

Applications for 613 students were submitted for consideration.

How many students were determined to be eligible?

There were 590 students certified as eligible to qualify for these funds.

What were the various disabilities of these eligible students?

The students' disabilities included Multiple Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Other Health Impairments, Visual Impairments, Hearing Impairments, and Orthopedic Impairments.

What were some of the services required for these students?

The students had various needs ranging from nursing services, physical and occupational therapy, counseling services, interpreting services, Braille training, assistive technology needs, and medical equipment and supplies.

Were any applicants deemed ineligible?

Yes, there were 23 students out of 613 student applications that were classified as ineligible because: 1) the costs noted in the application did not constitute "high cost" as defined in the State Plan, or 2) the students' high cost needs could not be documented through the review of a current, valid IEP.

What portion of the \$13.4 million was allocated to the local school districts and to other public schools?

According to the requirements for the HCS allocation, the \$13.4 million was divided proportionately based on the proportion of local school district requests versus requests from other public schools.

- The Total Eligible Requests for the local school districts was 417
- The Total Eligible Requests for other public schools was 173
- Therefore, the applicable percentage and allocation amounts are:
 - 70.68% for the local school districts (\$9,470,847)
 - 29.32% for the other public schools (\$3,929,153)

What is the allocation methodology?

Step 1: Calculate the Percent Impact of the high cost expenses on the total budget of the local education agency.

Step 2: Create a separate ranking for local public school districts and other public schools, including state authorized charter schools based on the percent impact on the budget. The impact to local public school districts ranged from 3.35% to .05% and the impact to the other public schools ranged from 18.97% to .66%.

Step 3: Divide the two rank listings into four tiers so that the total amount of funding for each group is allocated. The first tier in each ranking is 100% with the remaining 3 tiers set in each ranking with smaller percentages by identifying natural breaks in the Percent Impact to the budgets. The tiers were calculated as follows:

City/Parish			
	Total HCS Request as Percent of State & Local Revenue	Funding Percent	Number of LEAs
Tier 1	30% or higher	100.00%	0
Tier 2	20% - 29.99%	75.00%	0
Tier 3	10% - 19.99%	65.00%	0
Tier 4	0% - 9.99%	55.42%	44

Other Public Schools			
	Total HCS Request as Percent of State & Local Revenue	Funding Percent	Number of LEAs
Tier 1	30% or higher	100.00%	0
Tier 2	20% - 29.99%	75.00%	0
Tier 3	10% - 19.99%	65.00%	3
Tier 4	0% - 9.99%	58.68%	38

- Both local public school districts and other public schools have the exact same percent allocation for Tiers 1 through 3:
 - Tier 1 is funded at 100% and provides funding for 0 LEAs
 - Percent of total budget: $\geq 30.00\%$
 - Tier 2 is funded at 75% and provides funding for 0 LEAs
 - Percent of total budget: 20.00% - 29.99%
 - Tier 3 is funded at 65% and provides funding for 3 Other Public Schools
 - Percent of total budget: 10.00% - 19.99%
- The fourth tier had the largest number of entities eligible in both rankings and was allocated to ensure the total allocation fell within the exact amount of funds due to each rank listing. Tier 4 provides funding for 44 local school districts and is funded at 55.42%. The rank listing for other public schools is funded at 58.68% and provides funding for 38 other public schools.

Step 4: Reduce the requested amount per student by the MFP state and local amount allocated on behalf of each student and multiply by the funding percent.

Step 5: Compare the allocation amount to the allowable amount and fund the lesser amount.

How much is the allocation to each local education agency?

See attached allocation schedule.

Did this year's allocation methodology differ from the methodology used last year?

There were no changes to the allocation methodology with the exception of local education agencies being funded at the lesser of the allocation amount or allowable amount.

How will local education agencies meet the needs of eligible students in excess of the HCS allocation?

Entities will continue to use IDEA funds, state MFP funds and local funds to provide special education and related services to students. If this allocation would free up funding then those dollars should be dedicated to other services for students with disabilities. These funds are not intended to replace any existing state, federal, or local special education funds. In addition, these funds are student specific and cannot be used to support other students.