COLORADO
Department of Education

GFMU IDEA/ECEA Process



IDEA Budget Application

- The Budget Applications are housed with in the CDE IDM Webpage
- CDE IDM Webpage
  - For FY25-26 (and prior) Also know as the “FedApp”
    - Click the link “IDEA Budget and Expenditure System (FY25-26 and prior)”
  - FY FY26-27 (and going forward) Also know as ESSU DMS
    - Click the link “ESSU Data Management System”
  - To set up please contact your LAM (local Access Manager)
    - This person is an internal IT person at the district/AU
    - CDE staff does not have a list of those people with access to provide permissions
    - For Fed App ensure your role is “FEDAPP-XXXXX” (AU 5-digit code)
    - For ESSU DMS contact Josh Fails at Fails_j@cde.state.co.us with issues

IDEA Budget Application, continued

- Once an account is created, active and a user can sign in, CDE staff (contacts at the end of this presentation) can help you navigate the systems.
  - Things to remember when completing the IDEA Budget
    - All entered line items must match the approved narrative Objective and Activity numbers.
    - Funds cannot be reimbursed until the budget is submitted by the AU and approved by CDE
    - There is only one voluntary revision window through the Fiscal Year (date on the IDEA Timeline)
    - EOY submissions are meant to capture actual expenses, and any remaining funds are calculated as carryover for the next fiscal year.

IDEA/ECEA Allocation (slide 1/4)

- The IDEA calculation is completed each spring before a new fiscal year
  - The allocation will be available on CDE Grants Fiscal Allocations
  - The allocation consists of three parts:
    - Base allocation (calculated back in 1999/1997 or when a new AU is created)
    - 85% set aside and calculated based on October counts
    - 15% set aside and calculated based on Poverty counts

IDEA/ECEA Allocation (slide 2/4)

- IDEA Allocations are sent after a new fiscal year begins on July 1st
  - Sent to AU's in the form of Grant Award Letter (GAL)
  - GAL includes relevant terms and conditions
  - GAL will provide necessary data points such as
    - Performance Period
    - CFDA
    - Grant Code
    - FAIN
    - Awarded Amount(s)

IDEA/ECEA Allocation (slide 3/4)

- ECEA allocation found on CDE Grants Fiscal Allocations
  - ECEA includes several other funds that are excluded from the calculation including:
    - High Cost
    - Child Find
    - Ed Orphan

- The remainder is the base of the ECEA Special Education yearly award

IDEA/ECEA Allocation (slide 4/4)

- ECEA Allocation is calculated based on amounts awarded from state legislature outline in the Long Bill
  - ECEA calculation pursuant to state law 22-20-101 through 22-22-120
    - Broken into Tier A and Tier B students
      - Tier A receives $1,750 base per student (annual inflation increase added to the base/prior year amount)
      - Tier B receives up to $6,000 per student. Amount calculated based on remaining funds after Tier A student's portion is calculated

EOY Reporting

- IDEA:
  - Completed through the Fed App FY25-26 ESSU DMS FY26-27 each year and due by October 31st
  - Things to remember:
    - Carryover is the difference between the allocation and the actual expenses reported and ideally approved by CDE
    - Amounts reported should align with audited financials reported through Data Pipeline for grant codes 4027 and 4173 (and associated grant codes like 8027/8173 and 9027/9173)
    - Final year end requests for reimbursements (RFF's) should be submitted at the same time

EOY Reporting, continued

- ECEA
  - The most important thing to remember is to code the appropriate expenses to grant code 3130/3131and 3896/3897 in Data Pipeline.
    - These grant codes are used to calculate MOE compliance
    - Make sure you are utilizing the inter–BOCES transfer Object Codes appropriately if you are working with another BOCES or with member districts within your own BOCES
    - An example of proper coding can be found in the Chart of Accounts .pdf document Appendix D page 182-185 found on Chart of Accounts webpage

MOE Certificate

- The MOE Certificate is required by federal regulations
  - THE MOE is necessary to ensure an AU is spending the appropriate amount on special education students
  - THE MOE utilizes state and local expenses in the 3130/3131 and 3896/3897 grant codes and December student counts
  - An AU only needs to pass on one of the four available tests
  - If an AU doesn't initially pass they will be provided an "exceptions workbook"
  - There are several valid reasons for reduced expenditures including:
    - A reduction in special education student count
    - The voluntary departure, or departure for just cause of staff, where new staff are less costly than the departing staff
    - The end of a costly special education program for a student because the student has moved, graduated or aged out of the program
    - The end of costly long-term expenditures

What is MOE?

- IDEA regulation - 34CFR§300.203
- Verifies that Federal Funds are used to “Supplement not Supplant” 34CFR§300.202 (a)(3)
- MOE has 2 components
  - To determine an AU’s ***eligibility*** to receive Federal IDEA funds - 34CFR§300.203(a)
  - To determine an AU’s ***compliance*** - 34CFR§300.203(b)

How Does MOE determine IDEA Funding Eligibility?

- The State must determine that an AU has budgeted in the next FY at least the amount it expended in support of Special Education, from at least the same sources in the last FY for which data is available in order for the AU to be eligible to receive IDEA funds - 34CFR300.203(a)
  - Local funds only;
  - The combination of State and local funds;
  - Local funds only on a per capita basis; or
  - The combination of State and local funds on a per capita basis.
  - CDE utilizes an Eligibility Certification signed by the Administrative Unit’s Board President or BOCES Executive Officer

MOE Compliance Test 1

- CDE Uses Pipeline expenditures reported for 3130 and 3131 and 3896/3897
- If the total Pipeline figure for the year being reviewed is less than the total Pipeline figure from the prior year, the AU fails the first test

AU Fails the First Test			
Fiscal Year	**Actual Level of Effort**	**Required Level of Effort**	**Notes**
2020 - 2021	$100	$100	AU met MOE requirement
2021 - 2022	$90	$100	AU does not meet MOE requirement for Test 1

MOE Compliance Test 2

The per pupil funding is determined for each year by taking the total expenditures divided by the December count (both funded pupil and total served is calculated)

If the per pupil funding for the year being reviewed is less than the per pupil funding of the prior year, the AU fails the second test

Allowable Exceptions (slide 1/3)

- Voluntary departure or departure for just cause of special education staff
  - If the employee was replaced, calculate the difference in salary and benefits from the more senior staff to the new staff, this is the amount of the allowable exception
  - If the employee was not replaced, and the position was not eliminated, use the entire salary and benefits amount of the employee who left the AU
  - If the reason for departure is a reduction in students, then it is not an allowable exception, reduction in MOE for a drop in student count is calculated in test 2
  - Reduction in Force, furlough days, across the board pay cuts are not allowable reductions for MOE

Allowable Exceptions (slide 2/3)

- Decrease in enrollment of students with disabilities
  - this exception is calculated in compliance Test 2 above utilizing December student counts from each comparison year

- Termination of high-cost obligation to a particular child with a disability because:
  - The child has moved out of the district
  - The child no longer needs the program
  - The child has aged out of or graduated from the program

Allowable Exceptions (slide 3/3)

- Termination of costly expenditures for long-term purchases
  - One-time expenditures are not allowable exceptions
  - Expenditures that occur all in one year are not an allowable exception
  - An allowable example would be if an AU had undertaken the refurbishing of its existing bus fleet with wheelchair lifts, gates and tie-downs. If the AU purchased these items, on a single, multi-year contract, the AU could reduce its MOE by the annual amount of the contract once that contract is completed.

MOE Failure

- If after researching and submitting to CDE all allowable exceptions, the AU still fails MOE, the shortfall must be paid back to CDE, who then pays back the US Department of Education

- The repayment to CDE must be from non-Federal funds

Links:

- Grants Fiscal
- IDEA Part B and Preschool Finance Resources

Questions

- Any Questions?

Contacts

Evan Davis
Federal Fiscal Grants Supervisor
Office of Grants Fiscal Management
P 720.616.9163
201 East Colfax Avenue, Room 209, Denver, CO 80203
Davis_E@cde.state.co.us