Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note # 477

Re: American Rescue Plan (ARP) IDEA Funds for School-Age Special Education and Preschool Special Education
Date: July 6, 2021
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives and Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts of Public districts, Community schools, STEMS, Nonpublic schools and Nonpublic Principals

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Fund
The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. As part of the American Rescue Plan, additional funds were made available to States for IDEA Section 611 and Section 619. An additional $92,476,912 in American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding was provided to Ohio for Section 611 (School-Age Special Education or IDEA Part B Special Education). An additional $6,752,623 in American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding was provided to Ohio for Section 619 (Preschool Special Education or IDEA Early Childhood Special Education). These funds are distributed to Ohio's local education agencies based on population and economically disadvantaged counts. The U.S. Department of Education fact sheet regarding ARP IDEA can be found **here**.

These additional funds will give Ohio LEAs significant additional resources to help address the challenges posed by the pandemic and to continue to meet the needs of preschool and school-age children and youth with disabilities and their families. The Office of Special Education Programs encourages LEAs to consider the following when planning for use of these additional funds:

- Sustainability
- School re-entry and addressing the disruption in the education of students with disabilities
- Mental health services
- Issues of equity in special education

ARP IDEA Allocations
ARP IDEA School-Age Allocations and ARP IDEA Preschool Allocations have been estimated for award in Fiscal Year 2022. These allocations will be loaded into the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) in the near future. A PDF version of the ARP IDEA School-Age Allocations and the identified Nonpublic Proportionate share for the LEA can be found **here**. A PDF version of the ARP IDEA Preschool Allocations can be found **here**.

The ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool Allocations were determined from the proportion of population and economically disadvantaged counts for the district in the most recently available child count data. Amounts will be recalculated during Fiscal Year 2022 upon receipt of current-year child count data. Allocations may be subject to change upon further guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs.

Fiscal Considerations for ARP IDEA Allocations

- While further guidance is forthcoming from the Office of Special Education Programs, be aware that LEAs have been advised to account for and track the use of ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool funds separately from the IDEA Part B Special Education and IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds.
- ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool funds are identified as supplemental IDEA funds; therefore, they are subject to the same requirements under IDEA Part B Section 611 and Section 619, including adhering to Uniform Guidance requirements and meeting each of the conditions in Section 613 of IDEA. Funds must be used to pay the excess cost of providing special education and related services

to children with disabilities. Funds must be used to supplement state, local, and other Federal funds and not to supplant such funds.

- Initial informal guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs indicates that ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool funds should be included in the calculation of several fiscal requirements related to IDEA Part B allocations, such as:
    - ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool funds should be included in the calculation of the 15% mandatory amount of IDEA funds that LEAs are required to set aside for mandated Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services;
    - ARP IDEA School-Age and ARP IDEA Preschool funds should be included in the calculation of the 15% maximum of IDEA funds that LEAs may choose to set aside for voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services;
    - ARP IDEA School-Age funds must identify a proportionate share amount for nonpublic schools within the boundaries of the LEAs (see allocation PDF for estimated nonpublic proportionate share). These funds must be expended for services in the nonpublic schools; and
    - ARP IDEA School-Age funds should be included in the total allocation for Fiscal Year 2022 to determine if the LEA's allocation is greater than the previous year, therefore potentially making the LEA eligible to choose to reduce the level of its state and/or local expenditures below what was spent on special education and related services by not more than 50% of the amount of that excess if the LEA (called the Allowable Reduction of Local Funds/Replacement of Local Funds). This would have an impact on the LEA Maintenance of Effort for Fiscal Year 2022.

Additional Supports

For more information about Coordinated Early Intervening Services, please view the Office for Exceptional Children Fiscal Guidance for Early Intervening Services: Required and Voluntary.

For more information about Replacement of Local Funds and Nonpublic Proportionate Share, please view the Office for Exceptional Children Use of Funds Guidance. Maintenance of Effort Frequently Asked Questions and Answers can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website.

Questions about ARP IDEA School-Age funds may be directed to the Office for Exceptional Children Fiscal Consultant for your State Support Team Region. See below. Questions may also be sent to Sarah James, Assistant Director of Resource Management at (614) 981-3884 or Sarah.James@education.ohio.gov.

Name	State Support Team Regions	Email	Telephone
Randy Kempton	Regions 1, 2, 7, 16	Randall.Kempton@education.ohio.gov	1-614-387-2189
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Jessica Stanley	Regions 3, 6, 13, 14	Jessica.Stanley@education.ohio.gov	1-614-466-9523

Questions about ARP IDEA Preschool funds may be directed to Jody Vice Beall, Assistant Director – 619 Coordinator, Office of Early Learning & School Readiness at (614) 466-5016 or Jody.Beall@education.ohio.gov.