Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note # 481

Re: Release of American Rescue Plan Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (ARP IDEA) Funds and Instructions for Completing the Fiscal Year 2022 ARP IDEA CCIP Application
Date: August 27, 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (ARP IDEA) Funds

On July 6, 2021, the Ohio Department of Education released **CCIP Note # 477** announcing the receipt of American Recue Plan (ARP) IDEA funds, including the estimated initial allocations for both ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds (supplemental to 611) and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds (supplemental 619 funds). **CCIP Note # 477** with estimated local education agency allocations can also be found **in the CCIP Document Library**.

These supplemental funds will be released to eligible entities as soon as possible. The Ohio Department of Education ("Department") anticipates taking a request to the Controlling Board on August 30, 2021 to establish spending authority for this grant. As such, the Department will not Final Approve the applications or allow Project Cash Requests until the authority to spend these grant funds are approved by the Controlling Board. Schools and districts can submit applications and budgets upon availability of funds to the Department prior to August 30, 2021 to establish a substantially approved date.

Both the ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds and the ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds will be released in one application in CCIP called the **ARP IDEA** application. The Period of Availability for these funds will be the date that the application is entered into Authorized Representative Approved Status through September 30, 2023. Please be aware that this period of availability aligns with the State Fiscal Year 2022 IDEA Part B Special Education and IDEA Early Childhood Special Education entitlement funds.

The Department recommends that ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds and the ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds are identified using a special cost center (SCC) code for accurate tracking and reporting of the different federal grants. More information about Special Cost Centers can be found in the EMIS Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3, Expenditure Record.

The following instructions are for local education agencies to consider as they complete the Fiscal Year 2022 ARP IDEA Application in the CCIP.

General Overview of Application

- Once funds are allocated in CCIP, each local education agency that received an IDEA-Part B Special Education or an IDEA Early Childhood Special Education allocation in the FY2022 Consolidated Application will have a new application generate in their Entitlement Funding Applications in the CCIP for Fiscal Year 2022. This application will be called "**ARP IDEA"**.
- Within the application, there could be up to two grants for which the Local Education Agency may apply. If a Local Education Agency received IDEA Part B in the Consolidated application, there will be an allocation for a grant called ARP IDEA Part B Special Education. If a Local Education Agency received IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds in the Consolidated application, there will be an allocation for a grant called ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education.
- Each grant will have two parts:

- Budget Grid
- Budget Details page

ARP IDEA Part B Special Education

- The Budget Details page in the ARP IDEA Part B Special Education grant will have two parts: an Assurance Section and a Planning Section.
  - Assurance section:
    - Read each assurance.
    - Check the box next to each assurance.
  - Planning Section:
    - Part 1: Please include any information on how ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds will be used, including how this use will be related to the response to COVID-19.
    - Part 2: Enter the date that the Local Education Agency provided the opportunity for public comment on the use of ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds. For more on public opportunity for comment, **please see Section 300.165 and Section 300.201 of the IDEA Regulations.**
    - Part 3: This field **must** be completed for any local education agency that has been identified as significantly disproportionate in their FY2021 Special Education Profiles and is required to redirect 15% of their total IDEA funds to support Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services.
      - The local education agency must calculate 15% of the total ARP IDEA award (including ARP IDEA Part B Special Education and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education).
        - Please contact your OEC Fiscal Consultant if you require assistance.
      - Once the 15% amount of the total ARP IDEA award has been calculated, list the amount in the field on the Budget Details page.
      - If the funds for mandated Local Education Agencies are not identified in this field, the application will be returned.
      - The Local Education Agency may include a History Log note explaining the use of the redirected funds.
      - Local Education Agencies that are not mandated to provide Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services may put a zero is this box.
    - Part 4: This field **may** be completed for any Local Education Agency that is 1) not mandated to redirect 15% of their IDEA funds and 2) eligible that would like to voluntarily redirect up to 15% of their ARP IDEA funds to implement or support Coordinated Early Intervening Services.
      - If interested in redirecting funds, the Local Education Agency will calculate 15% of the total ARP IDEA award (including ARP IDEA Part B Special Education and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education).
        - No more than 15% of the total ARP IDEA award may be redirected. A Local Education Agency may redirect less than 15% of the total award for voluntary coordinated early intervening services.
        - Please contact your OEC Fiscal Consultant if you require assistance.
      - This amount must be entered into the field for the question.
      - The Local Education Agency may include a History Log note explaining the use of the redirected funds.
      - Guidance on Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services and voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services can be found **on the Ohio Department of Education website**.

- Once all questions are completed on the Budget Details/Application page, complete the budget grid in alignment with the description of the use of funds provided.
    - A Local Education Agency may have a nonpublic proportionate share requirement; please see below for more information.

ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education

- The Budget Details/Application page in the ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education grant will have two parts: an Assurance Section and a Planning Section.
    - Assurance section:
        - Read each assurance.
        - Check the box next to each assurance.
    - Planning Section:
        - Part 1: Please include any information on how ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds will be used, including how this use will be related to the response to COVID-19.
- Once all questions are completed on the Budget Details/Application page, complete the budget grid in alignment with the description of use of funds provided.

Nonpublic Proportionate Share

- If a Local Education Agency has a nonpublic proportionate share amount identified in the Consolidated Application for their IDEA Part B Special Education funds, the Local Education Agency will have a required nonpublic proportionate share amount for the ARP IDEA Part B Special Education funds.
- A Local Education Agency with a proportionate share must consult with the non-profit nonpublic schools in their boundaries (chartered and non-chartered) on the use of ARP IDEA Part B Special Education proportionate share services.
    - Additional consultation beyond what consultation has already been provided for the FY2022 year will be required.
- Local Education Agencies may find their estimated proportionate share amount in the estimated allocation spreadsheet provided in CCIP Note #477 **in the CCIP Document Library**.
- Local Education Agencies must review the estimated allocation sheet and budget the identified proportionate share amount on the nonpublic line.
- A submitted application without the identified proportionate share amount budgeted on the nonpublic line will be returned.
- Please be aware that all consultation activities should be documented.
- More information on nonpublic proportionate share can be found on the **Ohio Department of Education Website.**
- Please contact your Office for Exceptional Children Fiscal Consultant if you require assistance.

Replacement of Local Funds

- The ARP IDEA Part B Special Education and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds should be included in the calculation to determine if a Local Education Agency is eligible to utilize the Replacement of Local Funds for Fiscal Year 2022.
- Information on the Replacement of Local Funds is available in the Department's **IDEA Part B Use of Funds Guidance**.
- Currently, the validation in the Consolidated Application of the CCIP Application does not include these funds.

- As such, a Local Education Agency may estimate that they will be able to utilize Replacement of Local Funds, but they cannot enter the accurate amount to be reduced in the CCIP Consolidated Application at this time.
- Please contact your Office for Exceptional Children Fiscal Consultant if you require assistance on this calculation for planning.

Anticipated Updates to Application

- The Ohio Department of Education anticipates that additional updates to the ARP IDEA application and Consolidated Applications will be made during the fiscal year to better help Local Education Agencies identify and track information regarding:
  - Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services/Coordinated Early Intervening Services
  - Nonpublic Proportionate Share
  - Replacement of Local Funds
- The Department of Education is developing application updates to be in place by early 2022 to enable districts to utilize the full functionality of the application during the reallocation period in early January.

Maintenance of Effort Consideration

Under section 613(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a Local Education Agency may not reduce the level of expenditures for the education of children with disabilities made by the Local Education Agency from local funds below the level of those expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. This is called Maintenance of Effort. Maintenance of Effort Frequently Asked Questions and Answers can be found on the Ohio Department of Education **website**.

However, because the majority of Local Education Agencies receiving ARP IDEA Part B Special Education and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education funds will receive an overall increase in their Part B allocation for Fiscal Year 2022, Local Education Agencies may be eligible to reduce their state and local expenditures by half of that increase (see Replacement of Local Funds above). Please contact your regional consultant (below) for more information.

The ARP IDEA Part B Special Education and ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education are supplemental federal funds. They are not considered state or local funds and cannot be included in the Local Education Agency's Maintenance of Effort Calculation. Local Education Agencies are advised to monitor their state and local special education funding throughout the year to confirm that they are continuing to meet Maintenance of Effort requirements. For questions on Maintenance of Effort, please contact Paul Sogan at Paul.Sogan@education.ohio.gov.

Resources

The U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet regarding ARP IDEA can be found on the **U.S. Department of Education's website**.
U.S. Department of Education Nonpublic Proportionate Share Questions and Answers can be found on their **IDEA website**.
The U.S. Department of Education Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Guidance is located on **their website**.

Office for Exceptional Children Contacts

Questions about ARP IDEA Part B Special Education 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) 752-1249 or Sarah.James@education.ohio.gov.

Name	State Support Team Regions	Email	Telephone
Ray Draghi	Regions 10, 13, 14, 15	ray.draghi@education.ohio.gov	1-614-728-1113
Randy Kempton	Regions 1, 6, 7	Randall.Kempton@education.ohio.gov	1-614-387-2189
Mark Lynskey	Regions 5, 8, 9	Mark.Lynskey@education.ohio.gov	1-614-644-8861
Paul Sogan	Regions 11, 12, 16	Paul.Sogan@education.ohio.gov	1-614-728-2098
Jessica Stanley	Regions 2, 3, 4	Jessica.Stanley@education.ohio.gov	1-614-466-9523

Office of Early Learning and School Readiness Contact
Questions about ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education 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.