

NMMPED

Public Education Department

Puente para los Niños

High Cost Fund

Per 34 CFR § 300.704(c)

and 6.31.2.9 (B)(6) NMAC



Objectives

- Understand the purpose of the fund
- Recognize who is eligible
- Know what documentation is necessary for the application
- Consider factors involved in decision-making process
- Be informed about process timeline
- Be aware of how reimbursement works if awarded.
- Know where to go for more information.



Purpose of Fund

- To assist Local Education Agencies (LEA) or State Supported Education Programs (SSEP) in addressing the needs of high need children with disabilities (excluding gifted-only).



Fund Disbursement

- To be used for the costs associated with providing direct special education and related services identified in the IEP.
- Will be used to pay costs incurred from the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) or State Transportation funds only.



Who is a “high needs” student?

- A student whose cost to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is three times greater than the average amount per student .
- For 2016-17 school year, “high needs” is greater than \$23,262.00

Other considerations for “high needs”:

- The LEA or SSEP must have expended a minimum of 25% of the cost to provide FAPE to the student.
- The cost to provide FAPE to a high need student with a disability must have a financial impact on the LEA’s or SSEP’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B (IDEA B) budget.

Small LEAs

- A small LEA has student enrollment of 300 or fewer students ages 3-21 years old receiving special education services and related services.
- Cost to provide FAPE must be \geq \$23,262.00
- Requirement to expend 25% of the cost to provide FAPE is waived and not required for the small LEA.



Info Needed for Application

- Number of students in LEA meeting high needs definition
- Total special education enrollment of LEA.
- Description of how cost of high needs student has impacted the LEA's budget.
- Course of action for student thus far.



Supporting Documentation

- Detailed expenditure report
 - Budgeted for year
 - Actual YTD
- Copies of contracts & invoices
- Prior Written Notice
- Schedule of Services from current IEP



Considerations

- Completeness and timeliness of application.
- Unresolved material issues, including child count verification?
- Needs of high needs child
- Financial capacity of the LEA
- Amount of funding available



Additional Restrictions

- Funds cannot be used to pay costs that otherwise would be reimbursed as medical assistance under Medicaid.
- Funds shall not be used to pay for legal fees, court costs, etc.
- Funds will be used to reimburse costs incurred from the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) or State Transportation funds only.

Timeline

A p p l i c a t i o n Deadline	Puente para los Niños Committee Meeting	L E A / S S E P Notification
October 3, 2016	November 4, 2016	January 6, 2017
February 3, 2017	March 3, 2017	May 5, 2017



Reimbursement

- Upon receipt of the award letter, budget authority is granted
- Business Manager transfers expenses from SEG (Operations) or State Transportation to Puente para los Niños.
- Business Manager requests reimbursement from PED

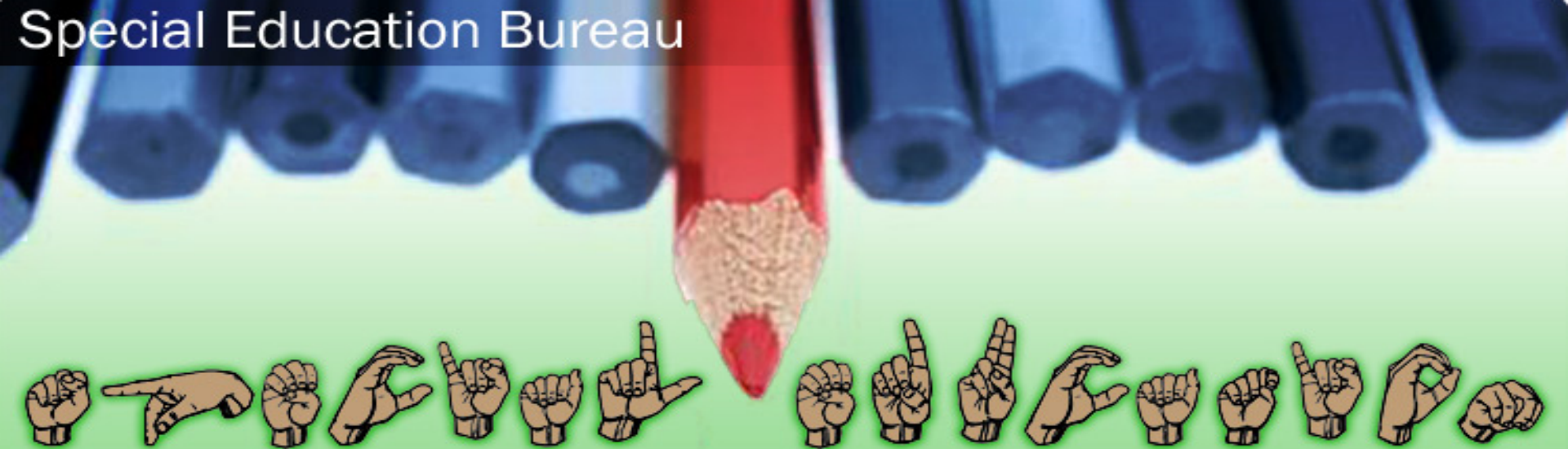
Most Important Points:

- Does the cost to provide FAPE exceed \$23,262.00?
- Non-small LEAs need to pay 25% of costs.
- Is cost reimbursable by Medicaid?
- Are costs budgeted/being paid from SEG or State Transportation funds?
- Is my application complete?
- Are all supporting documents provided?
- What is the application deadline?
- NB: Applications **cannot** be emailed.



Tips

- Tips from an LEA representative



For More Information:

- Special Education Bureau Website
- Funding tab
- Heading: Fiscal Request Forms
 - Subheading: High Cost Fund
 - 2016-2017 Guidelines
 - 2016-2017 Application