



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

JUL - 1 2005

Honorable Betty M. Sternberg  
Commissioner of Education  
Connecticut Department of Education  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Room 305, State Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1630

Dear Commissioner Sternberg:

This is to inform you that we have conditionally approved Connecticut's Eligibility Documents, including assurances and certifications, for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our determination that you are eligible for conditional approval is based on our receipt of the State's application submitted by the Connecticut Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 9, 2005 and amended on June 21, 2005 (Use of Funds) in which it assures that it will:

1. Operate consistent with all requirements of PL 108-446 and applicable regulations; and
2. Make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than July 1, 2006. Section II of the State's application (which is incorporated by reference and enclosed with this grant letter) identifies the IDEA statutory sections for which the State needs to amend policies and procedures and the timelines by which the State will amend its policies and procedures in order to comply with Part B of the IDEA. Within Section II, the State has included the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with any policies and procedures that are not yet in compliance with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, as amended.

Please note that as part of your Eligibility Documents for FFY 2005, your State has made an assurance, under 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding. Any changes made by the State, after OSEP approval, to policies and procedures needed to comply with Part B of the IDEA, must meet the applicable public participation requirements, including those in 20 U.S.C. 1232d(b)(7).

In addition, Connecticut's June 30, 2004 letter to OSEP assures that the State will provide documentation regarding the public participation process and submit the finalized Eligibility Documents that address the Part B requirements, including, but not limited to, the provisions relating to 34 CFR §§300.504(b)(10); 300.505(a); and 300.512(b), on or before June 30, 2005.

The documentation that Connecticut submitted to OSEP satisfies the requirements of the conditions on its FFY 2004 grant award. This determination is based on OSEP's receipt of the following documents:

1. The October 22, 2004 submission of State statutes and regulations;
2. The March 14, 2005 submission of the completed revisions to the State Regulations;  
and

3. The June 21, 2005 submission of Connecticut's July 6, 2004 Notice of Intent to Amend Regulations and Public Hearing.

Enclosed are grant awards for funds currently available under the Department of Education FFY 2005 Appropriations Act for the Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) and Section 619 (Preschool Grants) programs. These funds are for use primarily in school year 2005-2006 and are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2007.

The amount in your award for Section 619 represents the full amount of funds to which you are entitled. However, the amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2005. Of the \$10,589,745,824 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2005, \$5,176,745,824 is available for awards on July 1, 2005, and \$5,413,000,000 will be available on October 1, 2005.

Under the Section 611 formula, subject to certain maximum and minimum funding requirements, State allocations are based on the amount that each State received from FFY 1999 funds, the general population in the age range for which each State ensures a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, and the number of children living in poverty in the age range for which each State ensures FAPE to all children with disabilities. Section 619 funds are allocated to States subject to certain maximum and minimum funding requirements, based on the amount that each State received from FFY 1997 funds, the general population of children age 3 to 5, and the number of children living in poverty in the age range 3 to 5.

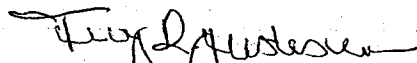
Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations. Table II in Enclosure B shows your State-specific information for within-State distribution of 611 funds based on your State's application. If you disagree with the information in Enclosure B Table II, notify your State contact immediately.

Enclosure C provides a short description of how Section 619 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table III in Enclosure C shows State-by-State funding levels for distribution of Section 619 funds.

Section 604 of the IDEA provides that "[a] State shall not be immune under the eleventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States from suit in Federal court for a violation of this Act." Therefore, by accepting this grant a State is expressly agreeing to a waiver of Eleventh Amendment immunity as a condition of IDEA funding.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Troy R. Justesen  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education  
Programs

Enclosures

cc: George Dowaliby