

Accessing Technical Assistance on IDEA Fiscal Issues

The Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded three technical assistance (TA) centers that have responsibility for responding to issues regarding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) fiscal reporting and data collection. The centers are the Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR), IDEA Data Center (IDC), and the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI). Although each center has its own work scope related to fiscal issues, there is some overlap; when the work scopes overlap, the centers work together to address state needs.

- CIFR is charged with building capacity and improving knowledge of state staff around IDEA Part B fiscal reporting requirements.
- IDC is responsible for assisting states in building capacity and improving the quality of IDEA data, including fiscal data.
- NCSI Fiscal Support Team (FST) responds to IDEA Part B fiscal questions encompassing the broad range of fiscal issues driven by states' needs and requests.

We encourage states to reach out to any of the centers, and we will coordinate efforts to ensure the state's needs are met.

The tables below summarize the objectives and activities of each of the three OSEP TA centers responding to state requests for TA on collecting, reporting, and analyzing IDEA fiscal data.



CIFR works closely with states to help them understand IDEA fiscal requirements and submit special education fiscal data that are accurate and reliable.

The objectives include:

1. Expanding the knowledge and expertise of state staff who collect, calculate, and report data on:
 - Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS),
 - Local Educational Agency Maintenance of Effort (LEA MOE),
 - Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS), and
 - Allocation of IDEA Part B subgrants to LEAs
2. Building state capacity to collect and report IDEA Part B fiscal data



IDC provides TA to build capacity within states for collecting, reporting, and analyzing high-quality IDEA data. IDC works with states and LEAs to help them address challenges encountered in collecting, reporting, analyzing, and using IDEA data, including the MOE and CEIS data.

The objectives include:

1. Increasing state capacity for collecting, reporting, analyzing, and using high-quality IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS
2. Developing training materials to help IDC stakeholders better understand collecting and reporting requirements under IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS
3. Providing training and support to IDC stakeholders to build state capacity for collecting and reporting high-quality IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS



The overall purpose of the NCSI is to help states transform their systems to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. The NCSI FST supports state education agencies (SEA) by addressing a wide range of IDEA Part B fiscal questions and concerns in relationship to the development, implementation, and evaluation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and other priority areas.

The objectives include:

1. Providing states with TA regarding fiscal issues to support LEAs in improving outcomes for children with disabilities (e.g., grant application, excess cost, proportionate share, use of funds, internal controls, risk management system)
2. Collaborating across national TA centers to ensure state access to a continuum of support

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The activities include:

1. Providing ongoing intensive and targeted TA and training to individual state educational agencies on MFS, LEA MOE, CEIS, and IDEA subgrant allocations to LEAs
2. Facilitating state-to-state learning and sharing of information through state communities of practice and listserv
3. Developing tools and resources to assist states in understanding and implementing the IDEA fiscal requirements
4. Disseminating related information and resources through the CIFR website, www.wested.cifr.org
5. Collaborating with IDC and NCSI to provide coordinated support to states on IDEA fiscal issues that are outside of CIFR's work scope



The activities include:

1. Developing tools and products and integrating them into TA efforts when and where appropriate
2. Providing general, targeted, and intensive TA for individual and groups of states to help build capacity for collecting, reporting, analyzing, and using high-quality IDEA data, including the SSIP
3. Providing Virtual Interactive Meetings and Peer-to-Peer Exchanges for groups of states to delve more deeply into IDEA data issues, including MOE and CEIS
4. Providing assistance around the connection between IDEA 616 and 618 data (e.g., differences between significant disproportionality and APR indicators B9 and B10)
5. Providing assistance around the differences between mandatory Comprehensive and voluntary CEIS (i.e., CCEIS versus CEIS)
6. Collaborating with CIFR and NCSI to provide coordinated support to states on IDEA fiscal issues that are outside of IDC's work scope



The activities include:

1. Responding to questions related to IDEA Part B fiscal issues and reporting that exceed the specific areas addressed in the work scope of the CIFR or IDC
2. Helping states understand the relationship of and how to leverage fiscal planning to improve outcomes by analyzing and addressing infrastructure, resource mapping, and policy development and implementation
3. Collaborating with other national TA centers, including CIFR and IDC, to ensure states have accurate technical information and access to specific areas of expertise

Contact Us

CIFR

cifr.wested.org

Submit questions at the "contact us" section of the website

IDC

ideadata.org

Submit questions to your IDC State Liaison

NCSI FST

ncsi.wested.org/resources/fiscal-support-team

Submit questions at the "Ask the NCSI" feature on the NCSI website

States are encouraged to reach out to any of the centers, and we will coordinate efforts to get them the help that is necessary. Regardless of the origin of the inquiry, all questions will be routed to the appropriate person and, if necessary, TA center, for a prompt, accurate response.