

# At A Glance: IDEA Part B Grants to States and Subgrants to Local Educational Agencies

The federal government provides funding through IDEA Part B grants to states and outlying areas, and a portion of that funding then flows to local educational agencies (LEAs). This resource outlines key components of IDEA Part B state grants and how funds are allocated to LEAs as subgrants.

## State Part B Grant (Section 611 or Section 619)

Every eligible state or outlying area receives an annual grant under IDEA Section 611 to support special education and related services for children ages 3–21. All eligible states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also receive IDEA Section 619 grants to support special education and related services for children ages 3–5.

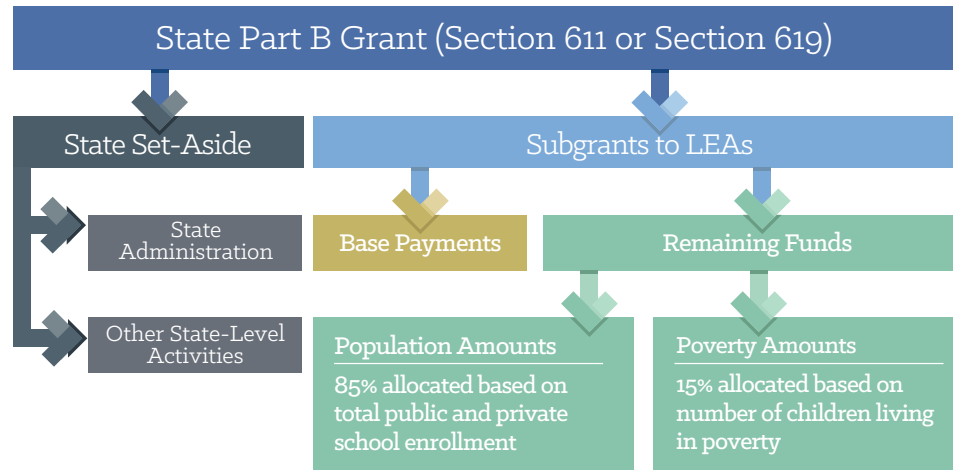
## State Set-Aside

Each state educational agency (SEA) may reserve a small portion of its Section 611 and Section 619 grant funds for administrative and other state-level activities. See 34 CFR §§300.704 and 300.312–314 for calculations of the maximum available and permitted uses.

*The SEA has discretion to set aside less than the maximum allowable for state-level activities, which would increase the amount available for subgrants to LEAs.*

## Subgrants to LEAs

The majority of the IDEA state grant is distributed to LEAs as subgrants. After reserving funds for state-level activities, SEAs must use a specific formula to allocate,



or flow through, the remaining funds to eligible LEAs, including charter school LEAs, that apply to the state for IDEA funds. The formula is applied separately to IDEA Section 611 and Section 619 subgrants (see 34 CFR §§300.705 and 300.815–817).

*Any LEA that could serve 5-year-olds in kindergarten is eligible for a Section 619 subgrant, regardless of whether or not the LEA is currently serving children with disabilities.*

## Base Payments

• **Original base payment amounts.** Base payment amounts are determined by the amount the LEA would have received

under IDEA if the state had distributed 75% of its federal fiscal year (FFY) 1999 IDEA Section 611 grant using the 1998 count of children with disabilities ages 3–21 in the LEA and 75% of the state's FFY 1997 IDEA Section 619 grant using the 1996 count of children with disabilities ages 3–5.

• **Base payment adjustments.** Base payment amounts for LEAs may change over time, due to base payment adjustments, as necessary. See 34 CFR §300.705(b)(2) and §300.816(b) and 20 U.S.C. 7221(e) for circumstances requiring adjustments.

*Even if individual adjustments are made, the total statewide base amount remains the same (except when federal appropriations for IDEA Section 619 fall below the 1997 appropriation level).*

## Remaining Funds

- **Population Amounts.** Of remaining funds, 85% flow to LEAs based on the relative numbers of children enrolled in public and private elementary and secondary schools within an LEA's jurisdiction, using the most recent available enrollment data.
- **Poverty Amounts.** Of remaining funds, 15% flow to those LEAs in accordance with relative numbers of children living in poverty, as determined by the SEA, using the best data available to the SEA.

*The SEA uses the same population and poverty numbers for both Section 611 and Section 619 calculations.*

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