



Action Alert #14: LDOE seeking input on IDEA Budget and Activities for FFY17

April 13, 2017

Stakeholders have until April 30, 2017 to comment on the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) proposed application for federal special education, Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), funds to support state-wide initiatives in Federal Fiscal Year 2017 (FFY17).

How to Take Action

[Click here to access the Louisiana IDEA FFY17 Grant Application Public Comment Form.](#)

LDOE requires respondents to provide personally identifiable information, including identifying themselves as the parent of a child with a disability. LDOE states that all submissions of written comment are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be made available to the public. If this requirement causes you concern [click here](#) to let us know. We will keep your information and response confidential.

Additional Information

LDOE provided a brief presentation to the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on March 29, 2017. [Click here](#) to see the IDEA budget presentation (beginning on slide 24) provided to SEAP.

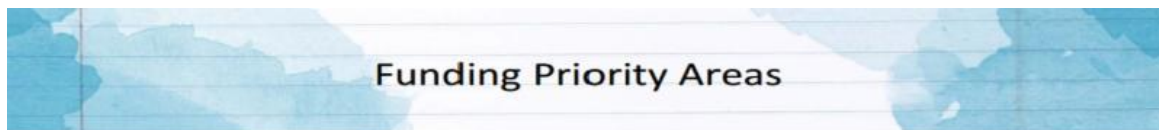
Below is a comparison of the current (FFY16) IDEA budget and proposed (FFY17) IDEA budget by category.

	IDEA FFY16	Proposed IDEA FFY17	Change FFY16-FFY17	% change
a Administration and coordination of activities	\$ 3,679,667	\$ 3,679,667	\$ -	0%
h Monitoring, enforcement, and complaint investigation	\$ 473,860	\$ 475,513	\$ 1,653	0%
I Mediation process	\$ 165,300	\$ 165,300	\$ -	0%
j Support and direct services, T.A., personnel prep, prof. development and training	\$ 4,089,640	\$ 1,890,268	\$(2,199,372)	-54%
k Assist LEAs in PBIS and mental health services	\$ 796,834	\$ 500,000	\$ (296,834)	-37%
l Assist LEAs in meeting personnel shortages	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 551,000	\$(449,000)	-45%
m Support capacity building and improve delivery of services	\$ 2,450,090	\$ 6,002,190	\$ 3,552,100	145%
o Improve use of Assistive Technology	\$ -	\$ 702,905	\$ 702,905	
p Support use of Assistive Technology	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 800,000	\$(800,000)	-50%
q Transition to post-secondary activities	\$1,197,742	\$ 175,270	\$(1,022,472)	-85%

r	Alternative Programming, Correctional Facilities, State Operated/Supported Schools, and Charter schools	\$1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	0%
s	Assessment Accommodations and Alternate Assessments	\$ 3,200,125	\$ 3,211,145	\$ 11,020	0%
t	Provide T.A. to schools/LEAs and direct services (Career Counseling)		\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
u	High Cost Fund	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 4,400,000	\$ -	0%
v	Support cost sharing		\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
	Total Budget Amount	\$ 24,553,258	\$ 24,553,258	\$ -	0%

The proposed FFY17 IDEA budget reflects major shifts in funding without clear descriptions of what programs or initiatives are planned to be terminated or receive massive increased funding.

[LDOE's presentation to SEAP](#) included four funding priority areas for the IDEA FFY17 application and budget:



Louisiana believes that all students, even those with the most significant disabilities, deserve an education that prepares them to be independent and successful in life after high school. The IDEA FFY 17 draft grant application prioritizes funding activities and initiatives for the 2017-2018 school year that will support:

1. Building a workforce that is prepared to respond to the needs of all students with disabilities;
2. Developing standards aligned tools and resources that support the growth of students with disabilities and minimizes redundant work across the state;
3. Providing support for understanding and appropriately responding to the unique ways different disabilities manifest in the classroom; and
4. Establishing structures that ensure students have their individual needs identified and appropriately supported provided as early as possible and ensure students experience effective transitions to life after high school.

Louisiana Believes

Some of the shifts in funding do not seem consistent with these stated funding priority areas. For example,

1. Reducing category (j) with professional development, training and technical assistance, and personnel preparation by almost 2.2 million dollars (54 percent) seems inconsistent with "building a workforce prepared to respond to the needs of children with disabilities."
2. Reducing funding in category (q) for Transition to Postsecondary Education by over one million dollars (85 percent), while only adding \$250,000 in category (t) to provide technical assistance to schools and Local Education Agencies and direct services (Career Counseling), does not seem to support "ensuring students experience effective transitions to life after high school."

Confirm Your Action

Don't forget to let us know that you took action! Reply to this email or notify your [LaCAN Leader](#) to confirm your action.

Why confirm your action? This helps the Council know how important these issues are to you and allows us to better work together in advocating for educational policies and practices that improve services and outcomes of students with disabilities.

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: info@laddc.org

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/lacanadvocates



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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