

SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE USE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT/ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

Includes corner chairs, prone standers, wheelchair inserts, bolsters and wedges, therapy equipment, adaptive toys and switches, augmentative/alternative communication devices, and other specialized equipment and assistive technology for use by ECSE students during the hours they are in school.

CHILD FIND:

Includes expansion of Child Find activities (e.g., screening, publicity, materials) specifically for use in identifying preschoolers with disabilities. May include a Child Find Coordinator's salary and benefits if it has not been funded previously from state or local monies.

CLASSROOM FURNITURE:

Includes child-sized furniture and storage units for an early childhood special education program.

COMPUTERS:

Includes computer hardware for direct use by ECSE students.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES:

Includes cost of diagnostic services for preschoolers beyond the level of expenditure for the total ECSE program in any prior year.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Includes classroom supplies, books, toys, and puzzles, assessment instruments, manipulatives, therapy materials, instructional software, computer adaptations, adaptive toys and switches, laundry and cleaning supplies, disposable gloves, and other materials necessary for the day-to-day operation of educational services to ECSE students.

INTEGRATION:

Includes activities designed to integrate ECSE students with their peers without disabilities. May include tuition payments for children, rental of classroom space for an early childhood special education classroom in a community-based early childhood program, and in-service training or personnel involved in or planning for integrated service delivery.

LOCAL COORDINATION:

Includes activities for coordination of early intervention activities at the local level. May include staff time to attend Local Interagency Coordinating Council for Part C, Early Intervention meetings, coordination with Head Start or other early childhood providers, or joint in-service activities for the purpose of planning and developing a comprehensive

service delivery system in the community, if such activities have not previously been funded from state or local monies.

OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, OR SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY:

Includes therapy beyond the level of expenditure for the total ECSE program in any prior year. The division must be able to document this increased level of service.

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT:

Includes permanent and portable playground equipment, resilient surfaces, riding toys, sandboxes, and other instructional equipment for outdoor use. Equipment must be suitable for children ages 2-5.

PARENT SERVICES:

Includes parent in-service, books and periodicals for a parent library, and a pro rata contribution to a local Parent Resource Center based on the proportionate number of ECSE students in the local division. May include reimbursement to parents for costs associated with participation in conferences and workshops. Does not include payment to parents to attend workshops or seek family counseling.

PROGRAM EVALUATION:

Includes summative and formative program evaluation activities for the purpose of program improvement or expansion. A third party evaluator could be engaged to conduct an evaluation or a portion of staff time could be allocated for this activity.

SALARIES FOR ECSE ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, AND PARAPROFESSIONALS:

Includes salaries and fringe benefits for administrator, teacher and paraprofessional positions for early childhood special education programs over and above the expenditures in any previous year. Funds proportionate to the amount of time devoted to ECSE programs may also be used for positions only partially working in ECSE programs. Divisions which have paid teacher and/or paraprofessional salaries out of Part B funds may use Section 619, Early Childhood Special Education Grant funds for those expenditures.

TEACHER STIPENDS/STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Includes travel, food, lodging, registration fees, and substitute teacher wages for ECSE teachers (special and general if students with disabilities are assigned to their classrooms (to attend in-service offerings, professional conferences, and specialized training related to early childhood special education. Please note that any out-of-state travel must have prior approval from the DOE and that all travel expenses must adhere to State Travel Regulations. (See page 28 of the Handbook) May also include reimbursement for unendorsed Early Childhood Special Education teachers to take course work toward early childhood special education (ECSE) endorsement, at the discretion of the local superintendent.

TRANSITION:

Includes activities for transition to and from early childhood special education programs. May include transition materials for parents and staff, joint in-service with sending and receiving programs, staff release time to attend planning and evaluation meetings, and other transition activities.

TRANSPORTATION:

Includes transportation of preschool children to and from programs or related services, transportation of staff to and from home-based or community-based programs, and parent transportation when needed to promote parental involvement in their child's education. This should not supplant the basic per pupil transportation allowance available through state funds.