

Allowable/Unallowable Costs

Costs must be: necessary, reasonable, allocable, and documented.

Guiding questions:

- Is the cost reasonable and necessary for the program?
- Do sound business practices support the expenditure?
- Does the expense support the purpose of the grant?
- Is the expense in compliance with laws, regulations, and grant terms?
- Is the price comparable to that of similar goods or services in the geographic area?
- Is the purchase for excess cost of educating students with disabilities?

For a particular cost to be allowed, it must be an excess cost of providing special education and related services for IDEA Part B.

Costs that are allowed can include, but may not be limited to, the following. However, every effort must be made to allocate ACCESS reimbursable costs to state or local funding whenever possible:

- Extended school year (ESY) programs including ESY transportation and ESY for students with disabilities placed out of state through the Special Education Plan Revision Process (SEPRN)
- Supplemental education costs to support the implementation of the Cordero court decision
- Training programs for parents, teachers and professionals/paraprofessionals who work with students with disabilities
- Occupational and physical therapy
- Hearing impaired services
- Vision impaired services
- Physically impaired services
- Audiology
- Assistive technology specialist
- Orientation and mobility specialists
- Psychiatrists (MD certified for SED)
- Adaptive physical education
- Work experience coordinator and job coaches
- Speech therapy
- Special education teachers
- Clerical staff directly working with allowable professional staff
- Teacher's aides or Paraprofessional personnel
- Bus aides
- Assistive devices
- Psychological services
- Social worker
- IEP specified nursing functions
- Program Monitoring and Evaluation
- Coordinated Early Intervening Services (optional -- available to school districts and public charter schools)

Costs that are not allowed can include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Any expenditure made before the beginning date or after the ending date of an approved project
- School transportation (except for field trips, ESY transportation, etc.)
- Operational costs for school owned property (rent, heat, telephones)
- School administrators
- Construction
- Business costs
- Membership in organizations for individuals
- Travel expenses (except for project paid staff or attendance at project paid activities)
- Food, beverages or snacks (there is a high burden of proof, that paying for food, beverages or snacks with federal funds is necessary to meet the goals and objectives of a federal grant)
- Rental costs for IU programs housed in school district operated buildings

- Costs related to legal counsel and/or attorney fees