



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

December 12, 2000

(Address blacked out)

Dear (Name blacked out):

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Federal funding for Special Education. Your correspondence was referred to the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for response.

The Assistance To States For The Education Of Children With Disabilities (Grants To States) Program is a Federal program, authorized by Part B, Section 611, of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and administered by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The program provides funds to States, and through the States to local educational agencies, to meet the unique educational needs of eligible children with one or more of the specified disabilities.

During the most recent reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in June 1997, Congress provided that, when the appropriation for this program exceeded \$4,924,672,200, a new formula for allocating funds to States would be implemented. This level was exceeded by the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 appropriation of \$4,989,685,000. Under the new formula, each State will receive an amount equal to the amount it received in FFY 1999. Eighty-five percent of additional funds above this base amount will be allocated among States based on population in the age ranges for which States mandate services, and 15 percent will be based on the number of children in the States in those ranges living in poverty.

It is important to note that Federal funding levels for special education programs have increased during the past several years. Appropriations for Part B, Section 611 were approximately \$2.3 billion in FFY 1996, \$3.1 billion in FFY 1997, \$3.8 billion in FFY 1998, \$4.3 billion in FFY 1999, and \$5.0 billion in FFY 2000. The President's budget request for FFY 2001 is 5.3 billion.

The U.S. Department of Education is committed to seeing that all children with disabilities receive appropriate special education and related services, and supports State and local efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Warlick  
Director  
Office of Special Education  
Programs