



# Act 16 and Special Education Funding

February 25, 2015

## ▶ Act 16 of 2000

- Amends Section 1372 of the Public School Code and requires PDE to annually compile information on the aggregate number of special education students in the follow cost ranges:
  - \$25,000-\$50,000
  - \$50,000-\$75,000
  - Above \$75,000

- Annual report is provided to the General Assembly on February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
- Historically, reports generally showed over 90% of special education students cost under \$25,000
- Rarely were variances questioned

## Looking for NEW Special Education Funding Formula

- Act 3 of 2013 authorized Funding Commission
- Recommendations were made for a formula to distribute the NEW Special Education dollars that might be added to the Appropriation line item
- The commissions recommendations to use the Act 16 Reporting passed as part of Act 126 of 2014
- \$20 million was added to the 2014-15 budget

## Formula based on weighted student count

- Three categories based on student costs
  - Category 1: < \$25,000/year
  - Category 2: \$25,000 - \$49,999/year
  - Category 3: \$50,000 and up/year
- Weights are assigned to each cost category
  - Category 1: 1.51%
  - Category 2: 3.77%
  - Category 3: 7.46%

## ▶ Formula based on weighted student count

- Weighted student count drives the formula and distribution of additional dollars to districts
- Again, only the increased dollars added to the appropriation  
Special Education line item will be distributed in this way

## Account Codes to use = Total Cost of each Sp.Ed. Student

1200 Special Education Instruction  
2100 Pupil Personnel (supervise Special Ed  
2123 Appraisal Service (Assessing students)  
2126 Placement Services  
2140 Psychological Services  
2142 Psychological Testing Services  
2150 Speech Pathology & Audio Services  
2151 Supervision Speech Path and Audio  
2160 Social Work Services

2240 Computer Assisted Instruction  
2260 Instruction & Curriculum  
2270 Instruction Staff Dev. Svcs.  
2350 Legal Services  
2380 Office of Principal Services  
2420 Medical Services  
2440 Nursing Services  
2700 Transportation Services  
2834 Staff Development

# As they relate to each individual student

## Act 16 Expenditure per Student Guidance

- Reporting is required for special education students with IEP **only**
- Responsibility of reporting lies with: School district of resident, not by educating LEA, IU, APS, County Prison, CTC, or other entity
- Exceptions:
  - Charter School – these students are reported by the CS
  - 1305 (Foster home) – these students are reported by the SD in which the student resides with the foster parents
  - Wards of State – students designated as wards of state in county prisons are reported by the school district in which the prison is located
  - Gifted Students – these students are ***not*** included in the Special Education Submissions



## Include the following when reporting the cost per student:

- Instructional Cost per Student
  - Classroom Aids (prorated)
  - Classroom Teachers (prorated)
  - Para professional/One-to-one aid assigned to specific student (total cost)
  - General education as it applies to special education services (prorated 1100's)

## ▶ Act 16 Expenditure per Student Guidance

### Related Services Cost per Student

- Specialized Transportation
  - Bus/Van that is required in the IEP for more than one student (prorated)
  - Bus/Van required for one specific student (total cost)
- Speech group (prorated)
- Individual services including speech, OT, PT, Vision Services, Hearing Services, Orientation and Mobility (total cost)
- One-to-one nurse (total cost)
- Para Professional/One to one aid assigned to specific student (total cost) (if not accounted for elsewhere)

## Specialized Equipment Cost per Student

- Braille Materials specific to student (total cost)
- Assistive technology
- Other equipment required per IEP


Do **NOT** include the following items in the reported Cost per Student:

- Management fees
- Non-Specialized Transportation

- Required to report information through PIMS
- Required to choose a cost category for every special education student:
  - \$0 - \$24,999
  - \$25,000 - \$49,999
  - \$50,000 - \$74,999
  - \$75,000 and up

## Follow-up to Act 16

- Dramatic increases in students assigned to the higher categories will trigger review
- 40 LEAs were targeted for further review this year
- They first received an email asking if they made an error and needed to correct data
- If they could justify in an email that the data was correct, no further action
- If no response to the email or justification was weak, there will be an on-site review of documentation



For more information on the (the topic of the presentation) please visit  
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