



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, Special Education Services (SES) Alabama High Cost Fund (ALHCF) Application

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services (SES) Section, is pleased to announce the opportunity for local education agencies (LEAs) to receive additional funding support through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Alabama High Cost Fund (ALHCF). The ALHCF funding is made available from ten percent of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, (IDEA) P.L. 108-446, IDEA, Part B, CFDA 84.027A, state-level activities under 34 CFR 300.704 (b)(1). The ALHCF is intended to provide additional funding for the LEAs in the provision of direct special education and related services for children who are classified as a child with high-needs (i.e., unduly expensive, extraordinary, and beyond the routine and reasonable special education and related services provided by the LEA) and whose cost exceeds three times the average per-pupil amount.

An LEA may apply to receive funds by completing an application and submitting all required documentation, (e.g., Individualized Education Program [IEP], and the *Notice and Eligibility Decision Regarding Special Education Services*) to the following email address: spced@alsde.edu.

The application is currently open and will follow the submission dates listed below.

*Application Submission Deadlines (Electronic Submission Date By):	
	September 30, 2021
	October 29, 2021

*Additional application submission dates may be added if funds remain in the ALHCF after the second application review date and LEA award notifications.

- Alabama State Board of Education
- Governor Kay Ivey
President
- Jackie Zeigler
District I
- Tracie West
District II
- Stephanie Bell
District III
- Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President
- Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V
- Cynthia McGarty, Ph.D.
District VI
- Belinda McRae
District VII
- Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem
- Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and Executive Officer

City and County Superintendents of Education
Page 2
September 15, 2021

The ALHCF awards will be made according to the information included in each application and the availability of funds remaining as applications are received and processed.

If you have questions regarding the ALHCF, please contact an ALSDE, SES Regional Fiscal Specialist at (334) 694-4782 or by email at speced@alsde.edu.

EGM/ER/BJ

Attachments

cc: Directors and Coordinators of Special Education
Chief School Financial Officers
Mrs. Angela Martin
Mr. Andy Craig
Mrs. Shanthia Washington
Mr. Barry Kachelhofer
Mr. Brady Vaughn
Dr. DaLee Chambers
Mrs. Erika Richburg

FY21-2114

Special Education Services Application for Financial Assistance
ALABAMA HIGH COST FUND (ALHCF)
Federal Funding

Local Education Agency Application: School Year 2021-2022

Federal Appropriated financial assistance funding for Fiscal Year (FY2022) is made available under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) Part B, Section 611, Entitlement Grant P.L. 108-446, CFDA 84.173 A funds. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services (SES) Section, reserved ten percent of the IDEA, Part B, allocation for other state-level activities pursuant to the regulations under 34 CFR 300.704 (b)(1). The ALHCF, fund source 3213, is intended to provide additional funding for local education agencies (LEAs) in the provision of direct special education and related services to high-needs children with disabilities by reducing the financial impact associated with providing direct special education and related services for high cost children with disabilities.

ALHCF Eligibility Criteria for Applying:

- The LEA had a Special Education LEA Determination Status of “Meets Requirements” for School Year (SY) 2019-2020, Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019.
- The LEA has a student(s) that meets the definition of a high-needs student, enrolled within the LEA requesting funds and receives special education and related educational services from that LEA.
- The student(s) is 3-21 years of age inclusive, and has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Eligibility report.
- The LEA has documentation to support funding and services needed.
- The LEA has documentation to support costs for the student exceed 3 times the average per pupil expenditure of \$30,464.
- The LEA has a current approved electronic Grant Application Process (eGAP) application for IDEA, Part B/Preschool funding.
- The LEA did not lapse IDEA, Part B, Funds during the previous fiscal year.
- The LEA did not carry forward 60 percent or more of its FY 2020 IDEA, Part B, formula funds.

Definition of a High-Needs Child with a Disability:

“A child with high-needs, is a child with a disability as classified under IDEA and receives special education and related services identified in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that exceeds the typical needs of a child with a disability, thus creating a financial impact on the LEA. When the costs to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to a child with a disability exceeds three times the average per-pupil expenditure, an LEA may request a ALHCF grant. Only costs identified in the student’s IEP and are associated with providing direct special education and related services to the student are considered in determining whether a student is a high-needs child.”

An LEA may choose to complete multiple student applications as appropriate for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. The following information **must** be attached with **all** applications that are submitted:

- Current IEP
- Eligibility Report
- Other Supporting Documentation

For consideration in the award allocation of these funds, it is imperative that the LEAs comply with all application requirements. These funds are for the SY 2021-2022 and available from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. All applications must have an electronic submission date no later than September 30, 2021, and January 31, 2022, and must be emailed to: speced@alsde.edu. (Note: additional application submission dates may be added if funds remain after each submission deadline).

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact an Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services (SES), Fiscal Regional Specialist at (334) 694-4782 or by email at speced@alsde.edu.

Special Education Services Application for Financial Assistance
ALABAMA HIGH COST FUND (ALHCF)
Federal Funding

SECTION 1: LEA APPLICANT INFORMATION

School Year: 2021-2022

Local Education Agency: _____

LEA Code: _____

LEA Mailing Address: _____

Superintendent: _____

Special Education Coordinator: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Chief School Financial Officer: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Signature of Special Education Coordinator

Date

Signature of Chief School Financial Officer

Date

SECTION 2: STUDENT INFORMATION

An LEA may choose to complete multiple student applications as appropriate for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

LEA: _____ School Year: **2021-2022**

Name of Student: _____

State Student ID: _____

Primary Area of Disability: _____ Secondary Area of Disability: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of School: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

Select one option pertaining to the subject matter of this application:

- Previously funded Previously submitted, but not funded New application

SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF NEED

In the space below, explain the problem that will be addressed through the application. Provide specific details for the unique characteristics of the student determined to be “high-needs” (include developmental, cognitive, social emotional, and medical factors).

SECTION 4: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED

Provide the following information in relation to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. Provide a detailed statement of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) services developed for the student and the expected cost of each service. Detailed statement should include all evaluations/consultations and services provided in the IEP.

SECTION 5: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPACT

Provide a detailed statement of the financial impact on the special education program of the local education agency if such services were funded solely by the local education agency.

[Empty box for detailed statement of financial impact]

SECTION 6: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED

Provide a detailed statement showing each anticipated source of funds (including local) for the proposed expenditures in this application by special education program of the local education agency.

