Date: August 29, 2011

To: School Superintendants, AEA Special Education Directors and AEA Business Managers

From: John R. Lee. Consultant, Special Education Fiscal and Data Services

Re: IDEA, Part B funding for 2011-12

Iowa has received official notification of the entitlement amount in the form of a grant award document from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. This award covers the 2011-12 school year for Part B Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The FY 2012 (2011-12) award reflects a decrease in Iowa's share of the national appropriation. Iowa receives just under one percent of the total federal appropriation for this program. Since there is a population factor used in the prescribed federal distribution formula and Iowa's population is not growing, as other states are, we receive a smaller portion of the total appropriation. The decrease in Iowa's award will mean a reduction of a little more than $400,000 in the funds available for local districts in 2011-12.

There are two factors used in the distribution formula provided in IDEA. A population factor is used for 85% of the funds to be distributed. Iowa uses data from the October 1st certified enrollment; 2010 in this case is the most recent available. The remaining 15% is distributed on the basis of a poverty factor which Iowa uses the free and reduced lunch count data for grades 1-6 gathered each October; again 2010 is the most recent data available. Changes from year to year in these two factors cause shifts in the distribution of funds even if the total available remains unchanged.

If the Iowa Department of Education finds funding available from previous year's funding and it is practicable, the DE will endeavor to use those to restore funding for districts in total to the 2010-11 level.

The amounts for each district have been calculated and are posted on the Department's website and also available through each district's Area Education Agency. Application forms for the 2011-12 school year are also available. The due date for the applications to be submitted to your Area Education Agency is Friday, September 23, 2011. The forms are not changed from 2010-11. The prescribed use of these funds also has not changed. These federal funds must supplement and not supplant state and local funds in the provision of special education instructional and related services.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Steve Crew or me.

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