Iowa has received notification of an increase in IDEA, Part B funding for the2011-12 school year. P.L. 112-74, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012," signed by the President on December 23, 2011. P.L. 112-74 restores some of the funding lost in the across the board cuts mandated in P.L. 112-33. The "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012". The reductions contained in (P.L. 112-33) made across-the-board reductions of 1.503 percent. P.L. 112-74 restores funding paring those cuts to 0.189 percent.

Iowa experienced two reductions in Part B, the first on July 1, 2011 reflecting Iowa's downward trend in the population factors used by the U.S. Department of Education in calculating awards under IDEA, Part B. That resulted in a reduction of approximately $400,000 in the funds flowing to subrecipients in Iowa. The second reduction, from P.L. 112-33 contained across-the-board reductions resulted in an additional cut of $1.3 million to subrecipients. This latest award (from P.L. 112-74) restores $ 1.14 million of the $1.3 million cut by P.L. 112-33. While Iowa is not restored to 2010-11 IDEA, Part B funding levels the end result of all actions is that funds to subrecipients is reduced by approximately $560,000 for 2011-12. The change is not large.

The supplemental award signed on December 23rd, changes the total amount available to each district and the amount that can be set aside, or in some cases must be set aside, for Coordinated Early Intervening Services in 2011-12. Each district will need to file an amended budget with their Area Education Agency that incorporates the additional funds now available. Payments will be adjusted following the mid-year reporting cycle. All funds are available for only the 2011-12 school year and may not be carried over to 2012-13.

The revised amounts will be posted on the DE website under Special Education Fiscal-- IDEA Part B LEA Entitlements and will be an Excel document entitled "REVISED LEA awards IDEA Part B 2011-12 January 2012". The application forms are also at that location and a district will be able to use those and mark them as an "Amendment".

Amendments are due to your AEA by Friday, March 2nd. In most cases this is not a significant amount of money and in most cases only the budget page(s) will need to be amended.