



OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, and Federal Programs Officers, and Interested Parties

FROM: Janet Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: March 15, 2013

SUBJECT: **The Effects of Sequestration on School Districts Serving Children with Disabilities and Disadvantaged Children**

The purpose of this email is to provide additional information to local education agencies (LEA), concerning the sequester impact for children with disabilities and disadvantaged children in Oklahoma for FY 2014.

Special Education Services and the Federal Programs notified districts last fall that federal funds could be reduced for FY 2014, due to the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 that was signed into effect by President Obama on August 2, 2011. The Act was designed to balance an increase to the debt ceiling and legislate a series of measures to decrease federal spending.

On March 5, 2013, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) participated in a conference call with Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Michael K. Yudin. Assistant Secretary Yudin expressed his concern that the sequestration will take effect, unless acted upon by March 27, 2013, with a resolution that will supersede the Act. He stated, "Education should be the last place to reduce funding cuts to vital programs", but he estimated that there will be a 5% cut to federal funds across the board, based on last year's program allocations. The sequestration will also reduce funds dramatically for IDEA Part C (SoonerStart) service to infants and toddlers with disabilities.

For Oklahoma, federal funding may shrink as follows:

1. Title I Grants – \$4,986,823
2. IDEA Part B Grants – \$7,300,677
3. Impact Aid – \$60 million
4. Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants – \$37 million.

Assistant Secretary Yudin clarified that States will be expected to meet all statutory requirements that govern program operations. This means that there will be no change in maintenance of effort expectations, supplement not supplant rules, hold-harmless requirements, and State or local reservations of funding for required activities.

Nothing has been finalized, and a resolution adopted by the end of this month can stop the sequestration and restore cut funds; however, I strongly encourage you to take proactive measures to streamline funds and creatively serve our students through business/community partnerships, innovative, data-driven strategies, and dynamic collaboration with the OSDE. We are initiating groundbreaking programs and developing resources that are designed to assist you in meeting the rigorous needs of your students. We want to maximize our efforts and minimize the adverse effects of the sequestration for your district.

If you have additional questions or concerns about the sequestration of federal funds, please contact the SDE Service Desk at (405) 521-3301.