New for FY 2015
IDEA Part B Program Information

MOE Eligibility Page
Meeting MOE eligibility is required before expending federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding. Assurances alone are not sufficient for verifying compliance with federal regulations for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Eligibility. A MOE eligibility page has been added to the FY15 IDEA grant application to document how each district meets MOE eligibility. MOE eligibility is based on a comparison of FY15 budgeted expenditures to the most recent complete fiscal year (up to 2 years prior). Cooperatives will need to coordinate with member districts and document in the IDEA grant how each district meets MOE eligibility. All districts must maintain MOE eligibility documentation at the local level as part of the IDEA grant records.

The new page lists the criteria (4 possible options, plus allowable exceptions) for meeting MOE eligibility and includes a text box for documenting how each district meets MOE eligibility. Stand-alone districts and cooperatives can copy/paste one or more of the listed applicable criteria for meeting MOE eligibility or note that MOE is met through an allowable exception and copy/paste the applicable MOE exceptions in the text box.

Excess Cost
The IDEA funds are for the excess cost of educating students with disabilities. We are currently finalizing a process to verify the excess cost threshold for each district. This will provide a means, beyond written assurances, for districts to verify that IDEA funds are used for the excess costs of special education. The process will be completed outside of the IDEA grant applications and will have timelines similar to the annual financial reports (AFR). We will share the final product/instructions, as soon as it is available. In addition to technical assistance available through the IDEA grant team, the annual Special Education Directors’ conference will include a break-out session addressing excess cost. We appreciate your patience as we complete this required component.

Quick Tips for FY 2015
These tips were generated from common errors seen in the 2014 application. It is our hope that they will help speed up the approval process for 2015.

Tuition is for students. Staff salaries cannot be charged as tuition.

Update staff names by the final amendment to avoid audit issues.

Send Out-of-State Travel requests in at least a week prior to the conference.
  - Out-of-state travel, as all other IDEA-funded professional development, must be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of the grant.
  - IDEA funded out-of-state travel is limited to staff employed by the district or cooperative.

When IDEA funds are used to pay for a professional development conference, any equipment provided as part of a conference (e.g. pre-loaded ipad) is the property of the district/cooperative - not the property of the conference attendee.

504 expenses are not allowable IDEA expenditures. Other funding sources must be used.