

Questions and Answers

ARP IDEA Office Hours

This document contains the questions and answers addressed in the ARP IDEA office hours held by the division of federal programs and oversight. New questions will be added after each meeting. For additional questions beyond what is covered in this document, please join the next [office hours](#) meeting or contact the assigned [divisional coordinator](#).

- 1. What is the projected date for when this money will be available should the application be accepted?**
The application will open on July 22 and once approved LEAs can start spending the funds. The review process will be like CFA reviews.
- 2. Will you be updating the FAQ document after each office hours session?**
Yes, questions from Office Hours will be uploaded into TDOE Resources [here](#).
- 3. Where will this application be located within ePlan?**
The application is in the FY22 funding section, just like the consolidated and ESSER funding applications
- 4. If we needed to remodel an existing bathroom at a school for our SWDs, is that an allowable expense, or should we use GP funds for that?**
LEAs should use GP funds for that, these funds will have the same guidelines as IDEA B and IDEA preschool
- 5. So, personnel are allowed and will not be frowned upon?**
Yes, it is allowed. Just remember that these are one-time funds. If you choose to hire personnel, be sure to look at sustainability.
- 6. Would sensory swings in sensory rooms be allowable?**
Yes
- 7. Can you talk just a minute about what monitoring expectations might look like?**
This will be monitored just like your other funding applications/grants.
- 8. On the Personnel pages, do we type all employees or only the ones that are paid out of the ARP funds?**
Only include the positions that will be funded from ARP funds.
- 9. With the inclusion of "providing for high-cost students" being in the spending plan, should we expect any changes to the current high-cost reimbursement procedures in the future?**
No. High-Cost reimbursements vary each year, but they are only reimbursed from your General Fund Expenditures. You cannot reimburse federal funds from federal funds.
- 10. Do we need to include FTEs and headcounts for personnel receiving stipends?**
No, stipends do not require FTEs or headcounts on the personnel pages. Just state the funds are for stipends in the budget narrative. This is the same as the CFA.

11. Private Schools Proportionate Share (PSPS) – Do I have to set aside funds for private school? What happens if we don't expend these?

Yes, you do need to set aside funds. The funds are carried over until June 30, 2023. After June 30, the private school funds not used will revert to the regular ARP IDEA funds to be budgeted and spent before Sept. 30, 2023.

12. Do I need to budget everything as if I am funding everything this year?

Yes, when your FER is completed, the carryover will be allocated just as it is in other federal funding.

13. I was going to do away with a position but would like to fund one of those positions, can I do that?

Yes, just remember that these are one-time funds, and you will need to consider sustainability.

14. What are other LEAs using their funds for?

Some are considering special education buses and vans they are replacing. Consider the needs of your LEA. If you choose to purchase an item over \$5000 per unit, be sure to fill out the equipment requiring prior approval page within the application.

15. Any innovative things you are seeing in the applications?

Some are using these funds the same way they would any other grant – we have had people discuss special playground equipment, pavilion for outdoor classrooms (concrete, awning, etc. would be GP budget items) however, tables, chairs, and the things needed to create the classroom could be used from ARP IDEA funds.

16. Are we supposed to give our Charter Schools funds like we do in our CFA?

If you typically provide funds to your Charters, then it would be the same with your ARP funds

17. Do we have to do indirect cost?

Yes, do know that equipment purchases will decrease your indirect cost amount.

18. If we put an assistant in the preschool, should we put the amount in for FY23 as well or just wait and do revisions later?

Funds must be budgeted where LEAs expect to spend them now.

19. If I want to hire two assistants for two years, do I list 4 FTES or 2 FTES?

No, please just list 2 FTES.

20. I have a school that does not have any restrooms inside the classrooms; however, one classroom is self-contained. Can I use ARP for construction of a bathroom?

No, IDEA part B and Preschool funds would not allow for construction. This would need to be funded out of your GP budget or ESSER funds. If you need a lift or changing tables, those would be allowable. The construction of building the bathroom would not be allowable under ARP.

21. How will this be monitored? Does it need to be tied to COVID-19? Can we just buy supplemental items that we need?

These funds do not have to be tied back into COVID-19; however, it is easily relatable. When looking at supplemental materials or intervention materials, you are working on closing gaps and working on learning loss that may have occurred.

22. What is the accountability for this grant? Does the application need prior approval?

Your fiscal coordinators will be a great resource when considering what would be needed for an audit of these funds. These funds do not require preapproval like the ESSERS. The preapproval for these funds will be essentially the application being approved.

23. What budget tag should be used for IDEA Director stipends for overseeing the grant?

Please use the budget tag "Providing Direct Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities".

24. We are quite a bit different from other LEAs – we have about 35 one room schoolhouses that are contractors with us. We typically distribute IDEA money to them, and we put it as contacts with private agencies. Can we do that with this allocation? Would that fall under direct services? If we are not funding positions, we would not fill out the personnel page? Correct?

You would allocate the funds the same as you would your CFA. Yes, that would be an appropriate budget tag. Please just explain in the narratives under 312 that they are hiring staff, equipment, materials etc. and that it is reimbursed just as your CFA funds.

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26. Do we need to worry about MOE on this application?

No

27. We did not close schools during the pandemic, our facilities continued since our schools are run different than others. Do we need to discuss learning loss?

No, just explain that your schools continued throughout the pandemic

28. What are others doing?

Sensory rooms, transition rooms, transportation, playground equipment, CDC classroom needs, supplies, and materials

29. We had to close classrooms due to lack of teachers, we are now transporting kids to classes that are outside their zone to get them to schools with their needs. Is the transportation allowable? Can we buy a van or bus?

Yes on both, be sure to address that on prior approval page

30. *If we don't have to spend until 2023, do I need to "park" those funds?*

You will need to budget for your plans. It is best to plan for the needs of your LEA. Do note that carrying over more than 50 percent will be a red flag in the risk analysis.

31. *Can we do stipends or if I wanted to move a gen ed teacher to sped, can we hire a gen ed teacher and put them on a waiver and get them certified in Special Education?*

Then what line item would I use? Yes, that is allowable. 7222-599 for paying for Praxis exams or school courses. We would advise the employee signs an MOU/Contract with the employee to ensure they stay in your LEA.

32. *Could we use the money to buy a van for our work-based learning program?*

Yes. That would be a great use of funds if it is a need in your LEA. Do note that you will need to fill out the equipment requiring prior approval page in the application.

33. *Can we update our special ed playground equipment?*

Yes

34. *Are reimbursement request guidelines going to follow ESSER 2.0 and other Federal Projects requirements for documentation?*

The funds will be treated just like your other IDEA B and IDEA preschool funds

35. *So, on this year's plan, would the private school proportionate share funds from prior year would be zero since we didn't have funds in ARP IDEA last year?*

This is not based on ARP but based on the information provided by your LEA. If you have PSPS set aside in your CFA, it will be set aside in your ARP application.

36. *Will any private school proportionate share funds from the prior year be carried over to be expended in the current year?*

You will not have carryover in your ARP for this year, however; if your PSPS is not expended this year in your ARP, they will carryover over to FY23.