Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) & the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) must be completed by each LEA and includes funds awarded for the following: Title I, Part A; Title I, Part A Neglected; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; Title IV; Title V, Part B (Rural & Low-Income Schools); and IDEA (Part B and Preschool). The CFA must be reviewed and approved by the Tennessee Department of Education (the department). Access to the CFA is provided through the department's online funding and planning portal, ePlan.

Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) LEAs can choose to use a portion of their IDEA Part B funds for services to a defined group of at-risk students. The amount expended by an LEA under CEIS shall count toward the maximum amount of the expenditures such LEAs may reduce in the CFA – Permissive Use of Funds – A. Adjustment to Local Effort.

Regulation: 34 CFR § 300.226

Funds: LEAs can choose to use up to 15 percent of IDEA Part B funds (611 and 619).

Target Group: Voluntary CEIS LEAs can choose to use a portion of their IDEA Part B funds for services to a defined group of at-risk students. CEIS funds can serve students without disabilities in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), with a particular emphasis on kindergarten through grade three (K-3).

Permitted Activities:

- Professional development for teachers and other school staff to enable such personnel to deliver scientifically based academic and behavioral interventions, including scientifically based literacy instruction and, where appropriate, instruction on the use of adaptive and instructional software.
- Educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction.

Reporting Requirements: An LEA is required to report to the state, and the state is required to report to the U.S. Department of Education the following:

- the number of children served under this section who received early intervening services, and
- the number of children served under this section who received early intervening services and subsequently received special education and related services under Part B of IDEA during the preceding 2-year period.

How should LEAs track funds?

- The LEA should track the amount it reserved and spent for Voluntary CEIS to ensure that the LEA spent up to 15 percent of the LEA's IDEA Part B subgrant for Voluntary CEIS.
- The LEA must track the use of Voluntary CEIS funds to ensure that the funds were used to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state, or local funds.
- The funds must be set up in a separate sub-fund code or cost-centered to ensure they are being spent as required.
- The LEA should track the IDEA funds it used for all the children in the target group until the LEA has spent the funds or until 27 months after the allocation of funds.

Note: *For each LEA, SEAs are required, as part of the MOE reduction and CEIS data submission to OSEP, to report the amount of IDEA funds reserved for CEIS (whether voluntary or comprehensive), the number of children provided voluntary CEIS supported by those funds, and the number of children provided those services who subsequently received special education services under Part B. Starting with the 2023-24 school year, SEAs are required to report the number of children with and without disabilities who received comprehensive CEIS.*

Available Resources

- Assigned FPO IDEA Divisional Coordinator
- Assigned Regional Finance Consultant
- In-person or virtual spring regional training (Feb.-March) - IDEA
- In-person or virtual spring regional work sessions (April) - IDE