

High-Cost Special Education Aid

Rick Cruz
School Financial Consultant
School Financial Services Team
With Derek Sliter
CESA 5 Business Services
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Quick Reminder about Excess Cost

For something to be an excess cost of special education, it must be a cost that would not otherwise exist but for the need to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, as specified in their individual education plans (IEPs).

More information at [S. 115.76, Wis Stats](#)

[DPI Guidance for Special Education Aid](#)

High Cost Special Education Aid

The high-cost special education aid program provides partial reimbursement of certain special education costs for school districts, CESAs, CCDEBs, and operators of independent charter schools.

- **Eligible Costs = Total Student Costs - (Deductible Revenues > \$30,000)**
- **Only Non-Administrative Costs are eligible**
- **If the administrative and nonadministrative costs are combined, you are eligible to claim 90% of the total cost claim**

The Claim Process

LEAs submit expenses via an online claim application located in the
Wisconsin School Finance Portal (WiSFiP)

Wisconsin School Finance Portal (WiSFiP)

Welcome!

This collection of related Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Financial Services (SFS) application modules is intended for use by school districts, other local education agencies and DPI personnel. *Click an appropriate role-based category below and then a desired module button to get started (WAMS login credentials required).*

Financial Data Reporting	
Student-based Financial Data Reporting	
Chapter 220	Manages all children participating in the Milwaukee-area Chapter 220 program
High Cost Special Education	ESSA-required school district Special Ed data and reporting based on LEA/district
Pupil Count	Access and manage the SFS Pupil Count module
DPI Administration	

High Cost Special Education Aid

Items needed for your claim

- [Access to WiSFiP](#) as Student Data Administrator Role by DSA
- **Accurate WISEid Student Data in your SIS**
 - Student was enrolled during the 22-23 year
 - Student was identified as Special Ed with identified disability
 - No other district can claim enrollment
- **Accurate FAPE Student Data if student attends another LEA other than Resident LEA, may require LEA contact for record agreement**

[*WISEid Not Found Error Fixes*](#)
[*DPI Guidance for HCSE Aid*](#)
[*High-Cost Special Ed Tracking Template*](#)

Identifying High-Cost SPED Students

- What if my special education director comes back and states we don't have any eligible students?
- Leading questions:
 - Any students in alternative programs/placements due to IEP?
 - Students with one-on-one aides in IEP?
 - SPED programs or classrooms with low student to teacher ratios?
 - Students with transportation in IEP?
 - It's your responsibility to file and determine eligibility, start tracking early at the beginning of the year

Categories of Costs

Three categories of costs:

- Child-Specific (1-on-1 aides, placements, etc.)
- Program (transition, speech/language, etc.)
- Specified Services (non-administrative pupil services)
- [Choose Student or Program Cost](#)

[High Cost Special Education FAQ](#)

Common Issues

- No Valid License
 - License entity number or license number only
 - Wrong or no name match with license number
 - Incorrect coding
- Duplicate Cost or Salary
 - Only eligible for time with HCSE student(s)
- One Program Entry for Multiple Staff
 - One Employee does not equal One Program
- Cost Description will be Required FY2025
 - Example; 436000, 256000 will allow for more accurate review of data

Other Questions

Rick Cruz

School Finance Consultant

School Financial Services Team

ricardo.cruz@dpi.wi.gov

608-266-8255

Derek Sliter

CPA

CESA 5 Business Services

sliterd@cesa5.org

608-745-5413