



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BRAD A. BUCK, DIRECTOR

DATE: March 14, 2014

TO: LEA Superintendents
LEA School Business Officials

FROM: Brad A. Buck, Director

SUBJECT: Additional Information Related to Special Education Funding Guidance

In December 2013, the Iowa Department of Education released clarifying guidance on appropriate uses of funds for special education services. As a part of that guidance, there were also three models for delivery of service that were proposed. The intent of the guidance was to prepare schools, districts, and providers to be in compliance with statute and rule for the start of the 2014-15 school year.

Since the release of the guidance, there have been a number of questions posed to the Department regarding implementation. While we believe the guidance is correct in the interpretation and application of the law, we also recognize the scope of adjustments this may require in certain situations. Because of the complexity of special education and general education programming and funding and the wide variety of local procedures that have been utilized, we will delay the Department's monitoring of this statute until at least FY16 so that our staff can work with districts and providers individually and gather detailed information over the next fiscal year.

We'd like to again reinforce that nothing in the clarifying guidance is new. Some districts and facilities have been in compliance with these expectations for years. Those expectations, however, were not consistently understood and implemented statewide and the situations impacted by these expectations are varied and complex. In order to better understand the financial implications of this guidance, the Department will work to receive more detailed data and information of special and regular education expenditures from a variety of stakeholders.

Thank you in advance of your support of this work in Iowa and your patience with this process. Department of Education staff members will be following up with stakeholders on the additional information requested.

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