

Questions and Answers: Special Education Grant Match for Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services

A. Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)

A-1: What are Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services?

Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) are services provided to students in kindergarten through grade 12 (not including preschool) who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services. CEIS focuses on K-12 students (with a particular emphasis on students in kindergarten through grade three) who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a general education environment.

A-2: What are the benefits of implementing Voluntary CEIS?

Voluntary CEIS advances equity and student success. CEIS enables local education agencies (LEAs) to:

- identify and address learning and behavior difficulties early,
- ensure that at-risk students are referred for special education or related services only when necessary, and
- prevent the inappropriate overidentification of subgroups of students with disabilities.

A-3: What activities may be included as Voluntary CEIS?

The IDEA and its regulations identify the activities that may be included as Voluntary CEIS:

1. 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 in the use of adaptive and instructional software.
2. Educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction

A-4: What funds may be used to implement Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services?

Federal regulations allow an LEA to use up to 15 percent of its federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B funds for voluntary CEIS activities (34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.226).



A-5: When can LEAs implement Voluntary CEIS?

LEAs can submit a CEIS Plan to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) at any time of the year. However, the CEIS Plan must be approved by OSPI before the LEA may begin using funds for CEIS.

A-6: How can I learn more about Voluntary CEIS?

- [OSEP CEIS Guidance](#)
- [CEIS Practice Guide](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide on Coordinated Early Intervening Services](#)
- [A Comparison of Mandatory Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services \(CCEIS\) and Voluntary Coordinated Early Intervening Services \(CEIS\)](#)

B. State Match Grant

B-1: What is the State Match Grant for Voluntary CEIS?

Washington state legislation passed in 2025 specifies that OSPI **may** provide state special education match grants to LEAs that opt to allocate federal IDEA funds for approved CEIS activities:

E2SSB 5263, Sec. 2. (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall engage in statewide special education activities to support students receiving special education services.

(b) The statewide activities **may** include:

- (ii) Providing a funding match to local education agencies that opt to allocate federal funding for coordinated, early intervening services per 34 C.F.R. Sec. 300.226.

OSPI has elected to designate state special education funds for this purpose for 2025-26. In addition to the allowable activities included under Voluntary CEIS, special education State Match Grants can also be used for allowable activities under IDEA.

B-2: Who is eligible for the State Match Grant?

All LEAs are invited to apply. Priority will be given to LEAs based on district data:

- Early literacy (English Language Arts (ELA) Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores, grade 3)
- Middle level math (Math SBA scores, grade 8)
- Percent of students with disabilities (SWDs) eligible in the category of Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- Inclusionary Practices (Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) data)
- Reducing Restraint & Eliminating Isolation (RREI) data

B-3: What is the process for applying for the State Match Grant for Voluntary CEIS?

Each step is outlined under the Roles and Responsibilities section of the grant.

1. FP 167 (Attach Forms)
 - a. Submit Proposed Federal CEIS Plan - This is **only** for setting aside up to 15 percent of federal IDEA (Program 24) funds for services to students without disabilities.
 - b. Submit FP 167 - These funds are state special education (Program 21) funds.
2. Upon approval of FP 167 – Submit Voluntary CEIS Plan through FP 267, along with budget revision (if necessary) – This is **only** for federal IDEA (Program 24) funds.

B-4: What are the requirements of the CEIS Plan?

CEIS Plans must support inclusionary practices through a focus on early literacy, middle level math, and/or the implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) for Specific Learning Disability (SLD) identification.

B-5: What is the maximum amount of state grant funds that LEAs should expect to receive?

The state match may be equal to the amount expended under voluntary CEIS. However, we won't know how close we can come to a full (100%) match until we assess the volume of applications received.

B-6: What are the reporting requirements of the State Match Grant?

The LEA must submit an End Of Year Report to OSPI by June 30, 2026. LEAs must report to OSPI:

- (1) the number of students who received CEIS
- (2) of those students, the number who were referred for special education during the year CEIS was implemented and during the two immediate years after implementing.
- (3) of those students referred, the number who became eligible for special education during the year CEIS was implemented and during the two immediate years after implementing.

LEAs must also provide OSPI a detailed transaction report showing how the CEIS funds were spent, so it is recommended that the LEA create a unique budget code identifier within its system to easily track these expenditures.

B-7: What about Maintenance of Effort (MOE)?

Before participating in this grant match opportunity, work with your business manager to plan ahead for MOE considerations. There are 4 methods to pass MOE:

- Local special education expenditures.

- Total (state and local) special education expenditures.
- Local per capita (per student) special education expenditures.
- Total (state and local) per capita (per student) special education expenditures.

LEAs only need to pass one of the four tests to pass MOE.

B-8: What resources are available to learn more about MOE?

- [MOE 50% Adjustment Request](#) (updated 11/1/2023)
- [Allowable Exceptions and Adjustments to MOE](#) (updated 2/21/2022)
- [IDEA, Part B Local Educational Agency \(LEA\) Maintenance of Effort \(MOE\) Guidance Handbook](#) (updated 12/27/22)
- [USDOE EMAPS User Guide: IDEA Part B Maintenance of Effort \(MOE\) Reduction and CEIS](#) (July 2024)
- [Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Maintenance of Effort \(MOE\) Organizer from the Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting \(CIFR\)](#)
- [LEA MOE Calculator](#) (updated 9/24/2024)