

Creative Funding in Special Education

Providing Equitable Services Without Breaking the Bank

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Who is eligible for Special Education services?

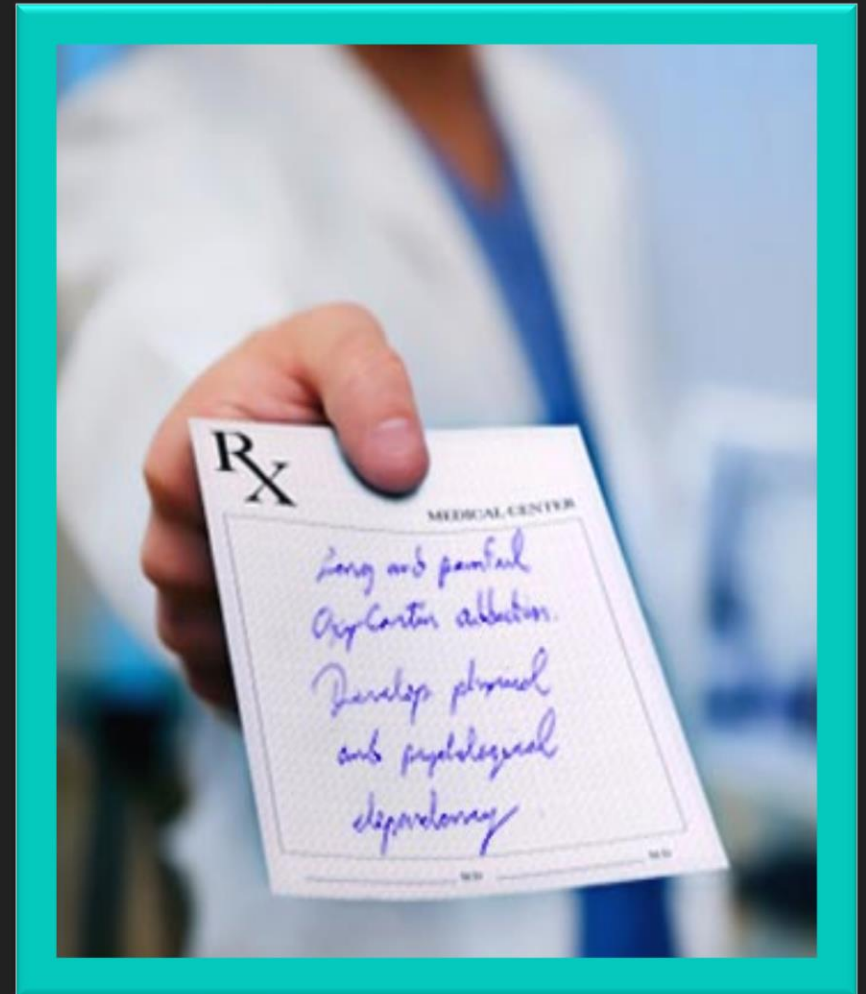
- Any student meeting the criteria within the Alabama Administrative Code who requires specialty designed instruction in order to make meaningful gain.
- 13 eligibility areas per IDEA
 - Autism
 - Deaf-Blindness
 - Developmental delay
 - Emotional Disability
 - Hearing Impairment
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Multiple Disabilities
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Other Health Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Speech language impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment (including blindness)



Can a medical doctor write a prescription for special education services?

A doctor can write a prescription for services, but that does not mean a student qualifies for special education.

So, a prescription will not equate to services in a public school setting. **You must meet eligibility criteria.**



The Land of Special Education

*Oh, the Places
You'll Go!*



Special Education
is not a place
where students go.



- It is a *service* students get.
- It is a *service* students need.
- It is a *service* for student support.

Why does Special Education cost so much?

Special education is services “in addition to, not in place of”. This means a student requires these services in addition to what is given in the general education setting.

- Related Services are costly
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Speech-Language Therapy
 - Behavioral Support Services
 - Counseling Services
 - Special Transportation
 - Orientation and Mobility for VI students
 - Support for personnel
 - Assistive Technology

How can we possibly fund all the extra “stuff” students need?

- Funding through IDEA Part B- generated from your Child Count Data
 - Money is granted in for the current year from data collected during the previous school year
- Local Funds
- Grants and partnerships through local agencies- State Senators, Representatives
- Catastrophic Need Grants through ALSDE
- High Cost Grant through ALSDE

IDEA Part B Funds

2018-2019 Child
Count recorded
153,784 students
with disabilities in
Alabama

- Child Count data snapshot is always submitted on October 1st of each school year
- Make sure your report is free from errors so all eligible students can count toward your total number of eligible students
- Have your psychometrists finish all testing and hold eligibility meetings prior to October 1
- Make sure you are counting out of state transfers who enter with an IEP, follow ALSDE guidelines for this so you can count these students also
- Do not hold on to students who are “no shows” in an attempt to get extra funding

Local Funds



Be careful with using local funds for Special Education.

WHY?

- Maintenance of Effort will increase
- Your LEA budget may be tight
- Once you begin paying through local funds, you have to continue or otherwise you are supplanting.
- What is supplanting?
- Always follow guidance in the EDGAR manual.
- When in doubt...

Ask

Grants from local legislators or partnerships with local agencies, etc.



- Consider partnering with mental health to co-fund a counselor or social worker for your district.
- Partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation to fund a job coach if you do not have one available.
- Ask your local school foundation for support by having teachers submit grants.
- Go Fund Me accounts- use with caution.
- Apply for grants through local legislators.

Catastrophic Grant

- Any county or city school system in the State of Alabama that has enrolled an exceptional child with disabilities determined eligible for Special Education and related services under existing federal and state law, may make a grant application to the State Superintendent of Education for financial assistance.
- It is available when the special education and related services for that particular child are unduly expensive, extraordinary and/or beyond the routine and reasonable education and services provided.

Catastrophic Grant

- Provide specific details of the facts and circumstances surrounding the catastrophic support services needed because of the student's disability(ies).
- Provide a detailed statement of the IEP services needed and the expected cost of each service.
- Provide a detailed statement showing each anticipated source of funds (including local) for the proposed expenditures in this application by the local education agency special education program and the amount requested.

Catastrophic Grant

- Provide a detailed statement of the financial impact on the special education program of the local education agency if such services were funded solely by the local education agency.
- Provide a statement of the financial impact on the entire local education agency if this grant is not approved.
- Provide statements showing each anticipated source of funds (including local) for the proposed expenditures in this application by the local education agency special education program. This shall include the amount needed to provide the required local match for catastrophic funds.

High Cost Grant

- Used to supplement services for an individual student with High Cost needs.

The following additional items must be submitted with this application for it to be considered complete:

- Other Supporting Student Documentation including the most current IEP and Eligibility Report
- Most Recent Detailed Expenditure Reports Showing Budgeted and Actual Year-to-Date Expenditures
- Copies of All Contracts and/or Invoices that Pertain to the Student with High Needs

High Cost Grant

- Provide a detailed statement showing each anticipated source of funds (including local prorated amounts when applicable) for the proposed expenditures in this application by the local education agency special education program and the amount requested. **(Total cost minus three times the per pupil amount of which is \$29,091.00)** will be used as the minimum to be considered in the application).

High Cost Grant

Are salaries and fringe benefits for special education personnel who work directly with high needs student considered to be eligible costs that can be included in the services calculation?

- Yes. The special education services staff who work directly with a high-needs student that are considered eligible costs allowable under the ALHCF grant include the following: special education teacher, counselor, school psychometrist, paraprofessional, social worker, bus drivers, and nursing services beyond those typically required in school.

High Cost Grant

When is the ALHCF grant application due?

- An ALHCF grant application may be submitted anytime between August through the ending date for submission, or as determined by funding available and discretion of the ALSDE. Applications submitted by the close of the business day October 1st annually, will be reviewed and award notifications will be provided within 45 days of the application submission deadline. If the ALHCF has any unobligated funds remaining after the 31st of October submission awards, the additional application submission timeline will be utilized.

What do we do in Morgan County?

- Focus on needs of each student
- Offer self contained classes within a multitude of settings on elementary, middle, and high school levels
- Utilize built in resources for support first (peer aides vs. hired aides)
- Utilize Fairbanks/Medicaid Billing

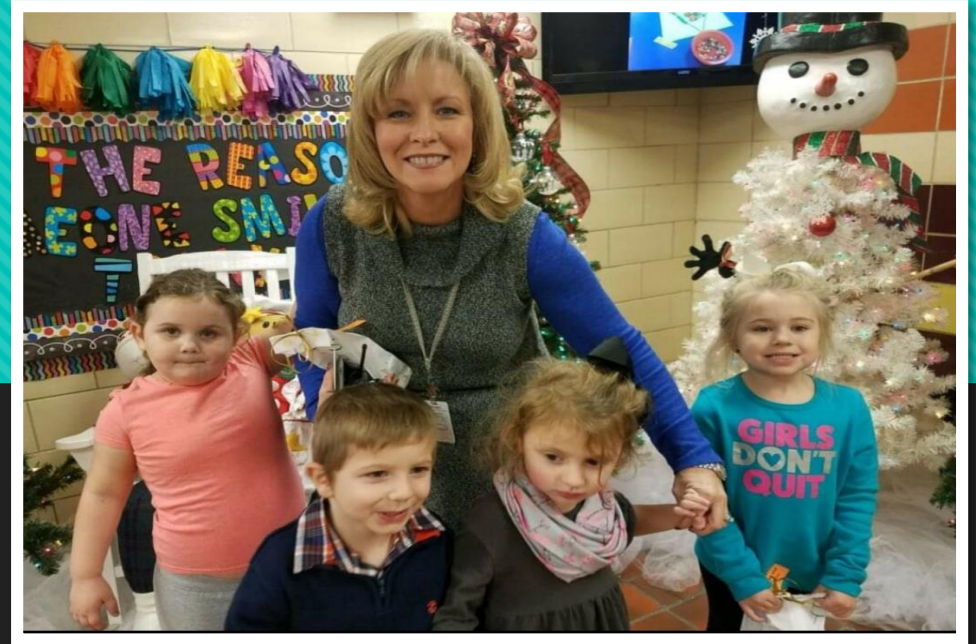


STAR Classes- Special Education Academic Readiness Class

Preparing students to be
the best they can be!



Making changes...



- Moved classes across the district
- Look at numbers and student placement EVERY year to determine needs
- Monitor teacher schedules and caseloads throughout the year
- Open bidding for contracts with outside service providers

Job Coaching- Preparing for Success!



Job Coaching at Holloway's Supermarket



Hartselle Fitness Center/Foodland Priceville



Martin's of Decatur

When the store manager calls YOU...



BHS STAR GREENHOUSE

FLOWERS:

\$8.00 per 10" Hanging Basket

Wave Petunia (Blue and Burgundy Star)
Sunpatiens (White and Red)

\$4.00 per 6" pot

Calibrachoa
Dianthus
Geraniums
Lantana (New Gold)

\$8.00 per flat (\$0.50 per cup)

Begonias
Coleus
Marigolds
Portulaca
Impatiens
Salvia
Vinca
Verbena

VEGETABLES:

\$2.00 per 4 count cup/ \$22.00

for flat (124 packs)

Tomatoes:

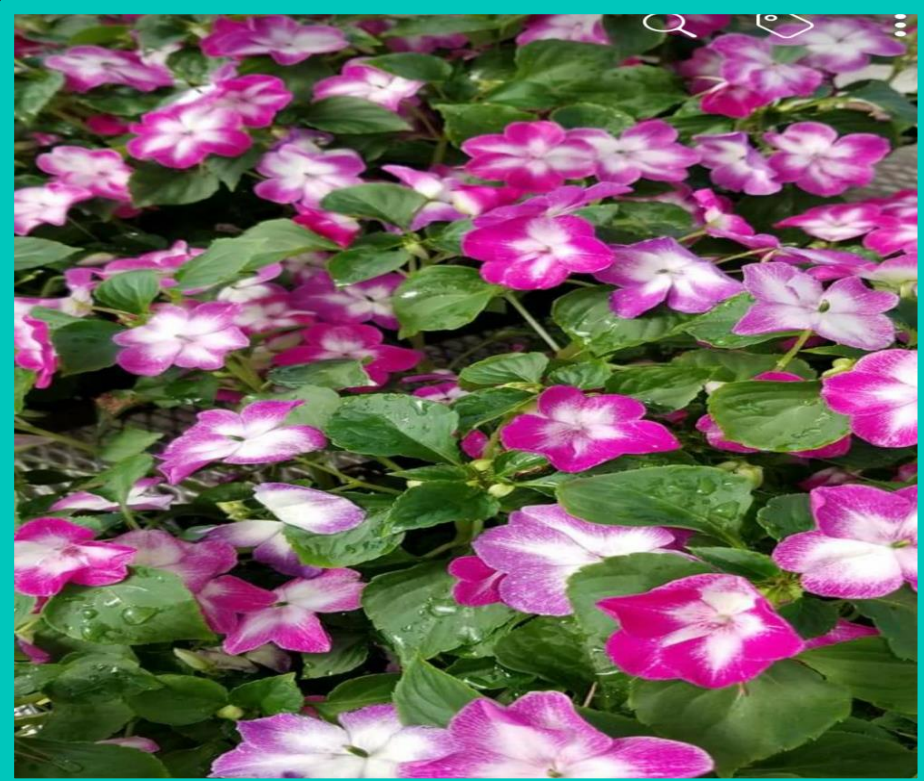
Better Boy
Celebrity
Cherokee
Early Girl
Roma
Super Sweet
Whopper

Peppers:

Cheyenne
Green Bell
Habanero
Jalapeno
Sweet Banana



Profiting \$13,000 each Spring



Keep a reminder of
why you do what you
do.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the
least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did
for me.” – Matthew 25:40

