

OMB NO. 1820-0030

Expires: 01/31/2026

**ANNUAL STATE APPLICATION UNDER PART B OF THE
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AS AMENDED IN 2004
FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023**

CFDA No. 84.027A and 84.173A

ED FORM No. 9055

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Washington, DC 20202-2600

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this collection is 1820-0030. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 14 hours per responses, and an average of 25 additional hours for responses reporting data related to significant disproportionality in a given year, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit under 20 U.S.C. 1411 and 1419. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, please contact Jennifer Simpson at Jennifer.Simpson@ed.gov or at the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202.

Respondents are required to submit information for Sections I-IV of the Annual State Application in order to receive a grant under Section(s) 611 and/or 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Respondents are required to provide the data in Section V pursuant to IDEA section 618(a)(3), which provides the Secretary authority to collect annual data on any information that may be required by the Secretary and 34 CFR §300.647(b)(7), which requires States to report all risk ratio thresholds, minimum cell sizes, minimum n-sizes, standards for measuring reasonable progress if the State uses the "reasonable progress" flexibility in 34 CFR §300.647(d)(2), and the rationales for each, to the Department.

Section I

A. Submission Statement for Part B of IDEA

Please select 1 or 2 below. Check 3 if appropriate.

1. The State provides assurances that it has in effect policies and procedures to meet all eligibility requirements of Part B of the Act as found in PL 108-446, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and applicable regulations (IDEA). The State is able to meet all assurances found in Section II.A. of this Application.
2. The State cannot provide assurances for all eligibility requirements of Part B of the Act as found in PL 108-446. The State has determined that it is unable to make the assurances that are checked as 'No' in Section II.A. However, the State assures that throughout the period of this grant award the State will operate consistent with all requirements of IDEA in PL 108-446 and applicable regulations. The State will make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2024. The State has included the date by which it expects to complete necessary changes associated with assurances marked 'No'. (Refer to Assurances found in Section II.A.)

Optional:

3. The State is submitting modifications to State policies and procedures previously submitted to the Department. These modifications are: (1) deemed necessary by the State, for example when the State revises applicable State law or regulations; (2) required by the Secretary because there is a new interpretation of the Act or regulations by a Federal court or the State's highest court; and/or (3) because of an official finding of noncompliance with Federal law or regulations.

B. Conditional Approval for Current Grant Year

If the State received conditional approval for the current grant year, check the appropriate statement(s) below:

1. Conditional Approval Related to Assurances in Section II.A.:

- a. Section II.A. provides documentation of completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2022 conditional approval letter.
- b. As noted in Section II.A., the State has not completed all issues identified in the FFY 2022 conditional approval letter.

2. Conditional Approval Related to Other Issues:

- a. The State previously submitted documentation of completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2022 conditional approval letter.
- b. The State is attaching documentation of completion of all issues identified in the FFY 2022 conditional approval letter. *(Attach documentation showing completion of all issues.)*
- c. The State has not completed all issues identified in the FFY 2022 conditional approval letter. *(Attach documentation showing completion of any issues and a list of items not yet completed.)*

Section II

A. Assurances Related to Policies and Procedures

The State makes the following assurances that it has policies and procedures in place as required by Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (20 U.S.C. 1411-1419; 34 CFR §§300.100-300.174)

<p>Yes <i>(Assurance is given Place a check as applicable.)</i></p>	<p>No <i>(Assurance cannot be given. Provide date on which State will complete changes in order to provide assurance.)</i> <i>Enter date(s) as applicable</i></p>	<p>Assurances Related to Policies and Procedures</p>
<p>X</p>		<p>1. A free appropriate public education is available to all children with disabilities residing in the State between the ages of 3 and 21, inclusive, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1); 34 CFR §§300.101-300.108.</p>
<p>X</p>		<p>2. The State has established a goal of providing a full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities and a detailed timetable for accomplishing that goal. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(2); 34 CFR §§300.109-300.110)</p>
<p>X</p>		<p>3. All children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the State and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(3); 34 CFR §300.111.</p>
<p>X</p>		<p>4. An individualized education program, or an individualized family service plan that meets the requirements of section 636(d), is developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.320 through 300.324, except as provided in §§300.300(b)(3) and 300.300(b)(4). (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(4); 34 CFR §300.112)</p>
<p>X</p>		<p>5. To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be</p>

		achieved satisfactorily in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(5)(A)-(B); 34 CFR §§300.114-300.120.
X		6. Children with disabilities and their parents are afforded the procedural safeguards required by 34 CFR §§300.500 through 300.536 and in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(6); 34 CFR §300.121.
X		7. Children with disabilities are evaluated in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.300 through 300.311. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(7); 34 CFR §300.122)
X		8. Agencies in the State comply with 34 CFR §§300.610 through 300.626 (relating to the confidentiality of records and information). (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(8); 34 CFR §300.123)
X		9. Children participating in early intervention programs assisted under Part C, and who will participate in preschool programs assisted under this part, experience a smooth and effective transition to those preschool programs in a manner consistent with section 637(a)(9). By the third birthday of such a child, an individualized education program or, if consistent with 34 CFR §300.323(b) and section 636(d), an individualized family service plan, has been developed and is being implemented for the child. The local educational agency will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency under section 635(a)(10). (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(9); 34 CFR §300.124)
X		10. Agencies in the State, and the SEA if applicable, comply with the requirements of 34 CFR §§300.130 through 300.148 (relating to responsibilities for children in private schools), including that to the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities in the State who are enrolled by their parents in private elementary schools and secondary schools in the school district served by a local educational agency, provision is made for the participation of those children in the program assisted or carried out under this part by providing for such children special education and related services in accordance with the requirements found in 34 CFR §§300.130 through 300.148 unless the Secretary has arranged for services to those children under subsection (f) [By pass]. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(10); 34 CFR §§300.129-300.148)
X		11. The State educational agency is responsible for ensuring that the requirements of Part B are met including the requirements of 34 CFR §§300.113, 300.149, 300.150 through 300.153, and 300.175 and 300.176 and that the State monitors and enforces the requirements of Part B in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.600-300.602 and 300.606-300.608. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(11); 34 CFR §300.149)
X		12. The Chief Executive Officer of a State or designee of the officer shall ensure that an interagency agreement or other mechanism for interagency coordination is in effect between each public agency described in subparagraph (b) of 34 CFR §300.154 and the State educational agency, in order to ensure that all services described in paragraph (b)(1)(i) that are needed to ensure a free appropriate public education are provided, including the provision of such services during

		the pendency of any dispute under §300.154(a)(3). Such agreement or mechanism shall meet the requirements found in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(12)(A)-(C); 34 CFR §300.154.
X		13. The State educational agency will not make a final determination that a local educational agency is not eligible for assistance under this part without first affording that agency reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(13); 34 CFR §300.155)
X		14. The State educational agency has established and maintains qualifications to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out this part are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained, including that those personnel have the content knowledge and skills to serve children with disabilities as noted in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(14)(A)-(E), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act; 34 CFR §300.156.
X		15. The State has established goals for the performance of children with disabilities in the State that meet the requirements found in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(15)(A)-(C), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act; 34 CFR §300.157.
X		16. All children with disabilities are included in all general State and districtwide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs as noted in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(16)(A)-(E); as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act; 34 CFR §300.160.
X		17. Funds paid to a State under this part will be expended in accordance with all the provisions of Part B including 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(17)(A)-(C); 34 CFR §300.162.
X		18. The State will not reduce the amount of State financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities, or otherwise made available because of the excess costs of educating those children, below the amount of that support for the preceding fiscal year, unless a waiver is granted, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(18)(A)-(D); 34 CFR §§300.163 through 300.164.
X		19. Prior to the adoption of any policies and procedures needed to comply with this section (including any amendments to such policies and procedures), the State ensures that there are public hearings, adequate notice of the hearings, and an opportunity for comment available to the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(19); 34 CFR §300.165)
X		20. In complying with 34 CFR §§300.162 and 300.163, a State may not use funds paid to it under this part to satisfy State-law mandated funding obligations to local educational agencies, including funding based on student attendance or enrollment, or inflation. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(20); 34 CFR §300.166)
X		21. The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education

		and related services for children with disabilities in the State as found in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(21)(A)-(D); 34 CFR §§300.167-300.169.
X		22. The State educational agency examines data, including data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(22)(A)-(B); 34 CFR §300.170.
X		23a. The State adopts the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard for the purposes of providing instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities, in a timely manner after the publication of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard in the Federal Register in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(A) and (D); 34 CFR §300.172.
		23b. <i>(Note: Check either "23b.1" or "23b.2" whichever applies.</i>
X		23b.1 The State educational agency coordinates with the National Instructional Materials Access Center and not later than 12/03/06 the SEA as part of any print instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of print instructional materials enters into a written contract with the publisher of the print instructional materials to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Materials Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard; or • purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in, specialized formats. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(C); 34 CFR §300.172)
		23b.2 The State educational agency has chosen not to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center but assures that it will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner. (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(23)(B); 34 CFR §300.172)
X		24. The State has in effect, consistent with the purposes of the IDEA and with section 618(d) of the Act, policies and procedures designed to prevent the inappropriate overidentification or disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as children with disabilities, including children with disabilities with a particular impairment described in 34 CFR §300.8. (20 U.S.C 1412(a)(24); 34 CFR §300.173)
X		25. The State educational agency shall prohibit State and local educational agency personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a substance covered by the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation under 34 CFR §§300.300 through 300.311, or receiving services under the IDEA as described in 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(25)(A)-(B); 34 CFR §300.174.

B. Other Assurances

The State also makes the following assurances:

Yes	Other Assurances
X	1. The State shall distribute any funds the State does not reserve under 20 U.S.C. 1411(e) to local educational agencies (including public charter schools that operate as local educational agencies) in the State that have established their eligibility under section 613 for use in accordance with this part as provided for in 20 U.S.C. 1411(f)(1)-(3); 34 CFR §300.705.
X	2. The State shall provide data to the Secretary on any information that may be required by the Secretary. (20 U.S.C. 1418(a)(3); 34 CFR §§300.640-300.645.)
X	3. The State, local educational agencies, and educational service agencies shall use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that insure proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds. (34 CFR §76.702)
X	4. As applicable, the assurance in OMB Standard Form 424B (Assurances for Non-Construction Programs), relating to legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood insurance; environmental standards; wild and scenic river systems; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and general agreement to comply with all Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.

C. Certifications

The State is providing the following certifications:

Yes	Certifications
X	<p>1. The State certifies that ED Form 80-0013, <i>Certification Regarding Lobbying</i>, is on file with the Secretary of Education.</p> <p>With respect to the <i>Certification Regarding Lobbying</i>, the State recertifies that no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; that the State shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 CFR Part 82, Appendix B); and that the State Agency shall require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers.</p>
X	2. The State certifies that the arrangements to establish responsibility for services pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(12)(A)-(C); 34 CFR §300.154 (or 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(12)(A)); 34 CFR §300.154(a) are current. This certification must be received prior to the expenditure of any funds reserved by the State under 20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(1); 34 CFR §300.171.

D. Statement

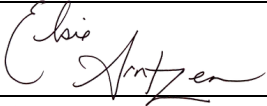
I certify that the State of Montana can make the assurances checked as 'yes' in Section II.A. and II.B. and the certifications required in Section II.C. of this application. These provisions meet the requirements of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as found in PL 108-446 and the implementing regulations. The State will operate its IDEA Part B program in accordance with all of the required assurances and certifications.

If any assurances have been checked 'no', I certify that the State will operate throughout the period of this grant award consistent with the requirements of the IDEA, as found in PL 108-446 and any applicable regulations, and will make such changes to existing policies and procedures as are necessary to bring those policies and procedures into compliance with the requirements of the IDEA, as amended, as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 2024. (34 CFR § 76.104)

I, the undersigned authorized official of the

Montana Office of Public Instruction,
(Name of State and official name of State agency)

am designated by the Governor of this State to submit this application for FFY 2023 funds under Part B of the IDEA.

Printed/Typed Name of Authorized Representative of the State: Elsie Arntzen
Title of Authorized Representative of the State: State Superintendent
Signature: 
Date: May 22, 2023

Section III

Description of Use of Funds Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(5); 34 CFR § 300.171

States must provide the Description of Use of Funds by completing and submitting the Excel Interactive Spreadsheet with the FFY 2023 Application.

Describe how the amount retained by the State educational agency under 20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(1) will be used to meet the following activities under Part B. (20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(1)-(3), (6) and (7).) The Department annually identifies for States the maximum amounts that a State may retain under Section 1411(e)(1) and (2).¹ The dollar amounts **listed in the Excel Interactive Spreadsheet** by the State for administration and for other State activities should add up to less or equal to the dollar amount provided to the State by the Department for each of these activities.

Enter whole dollar amounts (do not enter cents) in appropriate cells on the State's Excel Interactive Worksheet. The Excel Interactive Spreadsheet must be submitted as part of the State's application.

Describe the process used to get input from LEAs regarding the distribution of amounts among activities described in the Excel Interactive Spreadsheet to meet State priorities. (20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(5)(B); 34 CFR § 300.704)

LEA Input Process

For the FFY2023 Application, LEA input was sought during a statewide Director call on March 8, 2023. The OPI Special Education Director reviewed the FFY2023 Application process. The review included an explanation of the application process, information on the GEPA 427 Form requirement. The OPI Special Education Director explained the GEPA requirements applicable to LEAs after June 30, 2023 per OSEP guidelines. There was a question-and-answer session at the end of the review. LEAs have also been encouraged to submit direct comments on the FFY2023 Application process and distribution amounts through the public comment period process which occurs March 19, 2023 through April 21, 2023. All comments received will be updated prior to the final submission of the Application to occur no later than May 24, 2023.

¹Each State may reserve for each fiscal year not more than the maximum amount the State was eligible to reserve for State administration under this section for fiscal year 2004 or \$800,000 (adjusted in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1411(e)(1)(B)), whichever is greater; and each outlying area may reserve for each fiscal year not more than 5 percent of the amount the outlying area receives under 20 U.S.C. 1411(b)(1) for the fiscal year or \$35,000, whichever is greater.

For each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2005, the Secretary shall cumulatively adjust: 1) the maximum amount the State was eligible to reserve for State administration under this part for fiscal year 2004; and 2) \$800,000, by the rate of inflation as measured by the percentage increase, if any, from the preceding fiscal year in the Consumer Price Index For All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

Section IV

State Administration

Section 608(a) of the IDEA requires each State that receives funds under this title to:

- (1) ensure that any State rules, regulations, and policies relating to this title conform to the purposes of this title;
- (2) identify in writing to local educational agencies located in the State and the Secretary any such rule, regulation, or policy as a State-imposed requirement that is not required by this title and Federal regulations; and
- (3) minimize the number of rules, regulations, and policies to which the local educational agencies and schools located in the State are subject under this title.

States must attach to this application a list identifying any rule, regulation, or policy that is State-imposed (not required by IDEA or Federal regulations). If there are no such State-imposed rules, regulations, or policies, please so indicate. In addition, the State is required to inform local educational agencies in writing of such State-imposed rules, regulations or policies. (20 U.S.C. 1407(a); 34 CFR § 300.199)

State Imposed Administrative Rules

State statutes, administrative rules and policies for special education are only adopted when it is determined that more clarity is needed than provided by the federal regulation; federal regulation requires the state to adopt procedures to implement the Act and/or a rule was required to ensure the rights of a child.

Following is a list of the state administrative rules which have been identified as imposing some additional requirements on LEAs which are not specifically addressed in current final federal regulation under IDEA 2004. Following each of the rules is a comment as to why the rule was adopted and its implications for LEAs.

ARM 10.16.3320 Request for Initial Evaluation

- (1) In accordance with 34 CFR 300.301(b) either a parent or public agency, as defined in 34 CFR 300.33, may initiate a request for an initial evaluation.
- (2) A local education agency shall establish procedures for requesting an initial evaluation which include methods for collecting information to determine whether a comprehensive educational evaluation is necessary and they types of evaluations warranted.
 - (a) When the request for initial evaluation is made by an LEA, the request must include a statement of the reasons for the request, including documentation of regular education interventions for students enrolled in school, and the signature of the person making the request.
 - (b) When the request for initial evaluation is made by a parent, the request must include a statement of the reasons for the request and the signature of the person making the request.
 - (c) All requests shall document the suspicion that the student may have a disability which adversely affects the student's educational performance to the degree that the student needs special education and related services.

- (d) If a comprehensive educational evaluation in accordance with 34 CFR 300.301 through 300.311 is warranted, the local educational agency shall obtain consent of the parent before conducting a comprehensive educational evaluation.
- (3) If the local education agency does not suspect that the child has a disability and denies the request for an initial evaluation, the local educational agency must provide written notice to the parents, consistent with 34 CFR 300.503(b) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The parent may challenge such a refusal by requesting a due process hearing.

Comment: This rule requires documentation of the request for initial evaluation and identifies the standards for documenting why there is reason to suspect the presence of a disability. The documentation required by this administrative rule is considered to be essential when planning the evaluation to ensure consistency with IDEA 2004 requirements that the child is assessed in all areas of suspected disability.

ARM 10.16.3321 Comprehensive Educational Evaluation Process and Reevaluations

- (1) An evaluation of the student must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 300.301 through 300.311 and 34 CFR 300.321.
- (2) For initial evaluations, the evaluation report must include the information necessary to address criteria established in ARM 10.16.3010 through 10.16.3022.
- (3) The evaluation report shall include statements of implications for educational planning in terms understandable to all team members.
- (4) The evaluation report shall include a statement as to why the student needs special education and related services.
- (5) All evaluation reports will identify a disability category or categories for each student.
- (6) For an initial evaluation only, the following additional team members are required when a student is being evaluated in the specified category of disability:
 - (a) Emotional disturbance, traumatic brain injury, specific learning disability, or cognitive delay requires a school psychologist;
 - (b) Speech-language impairment, deaf/blindness, traumatic brain injury requires a speech language pathologist;
 - (c) Autism requires a school psychologist and speech language pathologist; and
 - (d) Deafness or hearing impairment requires a speech language pathologist or audiologist.

Comment: The language in (6) helps to ensure that personnel who have a special knowledge regarding the suspected disability are included in the initial evaluation team.

ARM 10.16.3346 Aversive Treatment Procedures

- (1) Positive behavioral interventions based on the results of a functional behavioral assessment shall serve as the foundation for any program utilizing aversive procedures to address the behavioral needs of students. Aversive treatment procedures may be appropriate for an individual student who exhibits behaviors which pose a risk of physical harm to the student or others, or a risk of significant damage to property, or significantly disruptive or dangerous behaviors which cannot be modified solely through the use of positive behavioral interventions. Aversive treatment procedures must be designed to address the behavioral needs of an individual student, be approved by the IEP team, and may not be used as punishment, for the convenience of staff, or as a substitute for positive behavioral interventions.
- (2) Aversive treatment procedures are defined as:
 - (a) Physical restraint, other than as provided in 20-4-302, MCA, when the IEP team has determined that the frequency, intensity or duration of the restraint warrants an aversive treatment procedure; and

- (b) Isolation time-out which results in the removal of a student to an isolation room under the following conditions:
 - (i) The student is alone in the isolation room during the period of isolation;
 - (ii) The student is prevented from exiting the isolation room during the period of isolation;
 - (iii) The door to the isolation room remains closed during the period of isolation; and
 - (iv) The student is prohibited from participating in activities occurring outside of the isolation room and from interacting throughout the entire period of isolation.
- (3) Any student in isolation time-out must be under the direct constant visual observation of a designated staff person throughout the entire period of isolation.
- (4) The following procedures are prohibited:
 - (a) Any procedures solely intended to cause physical pain;
 - (b) Isolation in a locked room or mechanical restraint, except in residential treatment facilities and psychiatric hospitals as defined in 20-7-436, MCA, when prescribed by a physician as part of a treatment plan when implemented in compliance with relevant federal and state law;
 - (c) The withholding of a meal for a period of greater than one hour from its scheduled starting time;
 - (d) Aversive mists, noxious odors, and unpleasant tastes applied by spray or other means to cause an aversive physical sensation; and
 - (e) Mechanical restraint that physically restricts a student's movement through the use upon the student of any mechanical or restrictive device which is not intended for medical reasons.
- (5) Exclusion time-out is not considered an aversive treatment procedure. Exclusion time-out is defined as any removal of a student from a regularly scheduled activity for disciplinary purposes that does not result in placing the student in an isolation room under all of the conditions described in (2)(b).
- (6) IEPs may include the use of aversive treatment procedures only when:
 - (a) Subsequent to a functional behavioral assessment, a series of no less than two written positive behavioral intervention strategies, which were designed to target the behavior to be changed were previously implemented;
 - (b) The IEP team includes a person trained and knowledgeable about best practices in the application of positive behavioral interventions, aversive treatment procedures and nonaversive alternatives for de-escalation of behaviors; and
 - (c) A written behavioral intervention plan using aversive treatment procedures is developed and incorporated as part of the IEP.
- (7) A behavioral intervention plan using aversive treatment procedures must be in writing and shall:
 - (a) Include a statement describing no less than two positive behavioral intervention strategies previously attempted and the results of these interventions, as described in (6)(a);
 - (b) Describe the target behavior(s) that will be consequented with the use of the aversive treatment procedure(s);
 - (c) Include short-term objective(s) with measurable criteria stating the expected change in the target behavior(s);
 - (d) Provide a written description of the aversive treatment procedure(s);
 - (e) Specify a time limit for the use of the aversive treatment procedure for any one instance;
 - (f) Include data collection procedures for recording each application of the aversive treatment(s);

- (g) State when the IEP team will meet to review the ongoing use, modification, or termination of the aversive procedure;
 - (h) Designate an individual responsible for ongoing review and analysis of the data in the target behavior;
 - (i) State how the student's parents will be regularly informed of the progress toward the short-term objectives in the IEP at a frequency no less than is required in 34 CFR 300.347; and
 - (j) State whether any standard school disciplinary measures are waived.
- (8) When an aversive treatment plan is incorporated in the IEP, the parents must be informed that their consent to the IEP includes consent for the aversive treatment plan. Failure to obtain consent is subject to due process proceedings under ARM 10.16.3507 through 10.16.3523.
- (9) Parents must be informed as soon as possible, but no more than 24 hours after the procedure is used, in writing, or orally if in writing is not possible, in their native language each time an aversive procedure is implemented on their child.

Comment: The above rule is state imposed and not required by IDEA 2004. The rule was adopted at the request of stakeholders, to ensure the rights of children are protected, and that children are not subjected to aversive procedures as punishment, for the convenience of staff, or as a substitute for positive behavioral interventions.

ARM 10.16.3505 Parental Consent

- (1) The local education agency shall implement consent procedures as described in 34 CFR 300.300 and consistent with this rule.
- (2) Written parental consent for initial and annual placement of a student with disabilities in special education and related services shall be obtained by the local educational or public agency prior to the placement.
 - (a) The local education agency shall maintain written documentation of the date of parental consent for initial and annual placement.
 - (b) If the parents and local educational agency cannot agree on the IEP but can agree on certain IEP services or interim placement, the student's new IEP would be implemented in the areas of agreement and the student's last agreed-upon IEP would remain in effect in the areas of disagreement until the disagreement is resolved.
 - (c) When parental consent for annual placement has not been obtained and has not been specifically refused, the local educational agency shall informally attempt to obtain consent from the parent.
 - (i) If parental consent cannot be obtained within a reasonable time, the local educational agency shall send written notice to the parent requesting approval and stating that the student with disabilities shall be provided special education and related services according to the student's individualized education program (IEP) as developed by the local educational agency 15 days from the date of the notice.
 - (ii) If no response from the parent is obtained, the local educational agency shall provide the student special education and related services according to the student's IEP without parental consent subject to the parent's right to an impartial due process hearing under ARM 10.16.3507 through 10.16.3523.

Comment: The language in (2) of the above administrative rule requires annual parent consent for the IEP. This exceeds the requirements of the final regulations under IDEA 2004, which requires parent consent only for the initial placement. Montana has a long-standing history of valuing parental involvement in their child's educational program as demonstrated by this administrative rule. It is felt that this requirement has had a positive impact on children's educational programs and outcomes.

ARM 10.16.3560 Special Education Records

- (1) School records and confidentiality of information must follow the provisions under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and its implementing regulations at 34 CFR, part 99, and must follow the provisions established for special education under IDEA and its implementing regulations at 34 CFR 500.610 through 500.626.
- (2) The special education record shall include access log, request for initial evaluation, permission for evaluation, summaries of assessments, test protocols, and other information that are not subject to sole possession requirements of FERPA, evaluation reports, individualized education programs, and reports of the student's progress toward meeting annual goals of the individualized education program.

Comment: The language in (2) of the above administrative rule is state imposed. The purpose of the language is to ensure a student's special education record contains all the documentation necessary to demonstrate that the requirements under IDEA have been addressed for the student, and that parental rights have been addressed. The requirement also assists parents in knowing what special education documentation is included in a student's special education record.

Section V

A. Maintenance of State Financial Support

Pursuant to the authority established in IDEA section 618(a)(3), each applicant for funds under section 611 must provide the following State fiscal data with a certification of its accuracy by the State budget office or an authorized representative thereof. Amounts should be shown in whole dollars and are for the State fiscal year (SFY). States may meet the maintenance of State financial support (MFS) requirement in IDEA section 612(a)(18) and 34 CFR § 300.163 on either a total or per capita basis. In order to complete Section V.A. of the Application, States must provide in whole dollars the total amount of State financial support made available for special education and related services for children with disabilities during SFYs 2021 and 2022. However, if a State met the MFS requirement on a per capita basis, it **must** complete the first chart and then may also complete the second chart by providing, in whole dollars, the amount of State financial support made available for special education and related services per child with a disability during SFYs 2021 and 2022.

Total Amount of State Financial Support Made Available for Special Education and Related Services for Children with Disabilities

SFY 2021	\$51,492,613.03
SFY 2022	\$51,746,660

Per capita amount of State Financial Support Made Available for Special Education and Related Services for Children with Disabilities

SFY 2021	
SFY 2022	

Jay S Phillips
State Budget Officer or Authorized Representative (Printed Name)


Signature of State Budget Officer or Authorized Representative

3-15-23
Date

B. Significant Disproportionality

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.647(b)(7), each State must report all risk ratio thresholds, minimum cell sizes, minimum n-sizes, standards for measuring reasonable progress if the State uses the “reasonable progress” flexibility in 34 CFR § 300.647(d)(2), and the rationales for each, to the Department. Under § 300.647(b)(7), rationales for minimum cell sizes that exceed 10 and minimum n-sizes that exceed 30 must include a detailed explanation of why the numbers chosen are reasonable and how they ensure that the State is appropriately analyzing and identifying LEAs with significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity, in the identification, placement, or discipline of children with disabilities. Additionally, pursuant to the authority established in IDEA section 618(a)(3), each applicant must also provide the number of years of data it uses in making annual determinations of significant disproportionality. Each applicant must provide this information by completing and submitting the Significant Disproportionality Reporting Form.

All States completed and submitted the **Significant Disproportionality Reporting** Form with their FFY 2020 IDEA Part B application. After the initial submission of the Form, a State will only be required to submit the Form with any future annual IDEA Part B State applications if the State modifies its risk ratio thresholds, minimum cell sizes, minimum n-sizes, standards for measuring reasonable progress, and rationales for each, or the number of years of data used in making annual determinations of significant disproportionality.

If your State has revised its Significant Disproportionality procedures or has any questions regarding Section V.B. of the grant application, please contact your OSEP State Lead before the Application due date.