



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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OSEP MEMORANDUM

TO : State Directors of Special Education

FROM : Kenneth R. Warlick *(RW/pc)*  
Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

SUBJECT : State Improvement Grant Applications

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform State Educational Agencies (SEA) of the Office of Special Education Programs' plans for this year's State Improvement Grant (SIG) program competition. As you are probably aware, for the first competition held in 1999, we received an allocation from Congress of \$18.1 million. From those funds, eighteen States received SIGs. For the competition held in 2000, the Congress provided no new funds above the prior year's appropriation but \$7.1 million of the amount appropriated could be used for SIGs due to expiring grants from two other programs (Secondary and Transitional Services and Severe Disabilities). From these funds nine additional States received SIGs. For the 2001 competition the Congress has again provided no new funds above prior appropriation levels but we will again have available for new SIGs funds from expiring Secondary and Transitional Services and Severe Disabilities grants. However, only \$3.5 million will be available from these expiring grants. These funds will allow OSEP to make approximately 2 to 3 additional awards. Whether or not appropriation levels for these activities will increase in FY 2001 year, we estimate that on July 1, 2001 an additional \$5.7 million of funds at current appropriation levels will become available for new SIGs from expiring Secondary and Transitional Services and Severe Disabilities grants. We recognize that preparing a SIG application is a lengthy and time consuming activity. Given the

high level of interest by States in the SIG competition, if we were to run a SIG competition based solely on the \$3.5 million of FFY 2000 funds available, States would have a minimal chance of receiving a grant in exchange for that effort. Thus, it is OSEP's intent to conduct one SIG competition in the late spring, 2001 with funds from the two years (currently estimated to be about \$9.2 million) and to make two sets of awards; one in May and one in July. The result will be a single competition with a likelihood that between seven and eleven States will be funded. An additional benefit of running a single competition is that it will save the \$100,000 cost of operating a competition, thus making more of the funds available for grants to States.

Based on the single competition approach we are projecting that the new application: (1) will be released in mid-October; (2) close some time in March; and (3) be paneled in April. I would like to emphasize that we are not anticipating significant revisions to the application. Thus, your State team should feel free to begin the application process based on last year's application. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Larry Wexler, of my staff, by e-mail at [Larry\\_Wexler@ed.gov](mailto:Larry_Wexler@ed.gov) or by phone at 202-205-5390.

Thank you.

cc: RRCs  
NECTAS  
NASDSE