



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Finance Officials

From: Adam Pitt, Director of English Learners and Migrant Education

Melissa Ambre, Director of School Finance

Date: June 9, 2023

Subject: Legislative Changes Impacting the Non-English Speaking Program (NESP)

The recently-passed 2024-2025 biennial state budget included an increase in funding for our state's English learner (EL) students as well as a shift in how schools receive this important funding. This memorandum serves to provide additional clarification regarding the upcoming enactment of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, NESP funding will no longer be distributed via grants to schools through an application process, but rather through monthly tuition support distributions beginning in December 2023. This funding will be allocated on a per-pupil basis in accordance with each public local educational agency's (LEA's) reported EL student count, reflected in the annual Multilingual Learner data collection in Data Exchange. When final counts are available, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will calculate and reconcile NESP funding for the fiscal year. Funds will be distributed on a monthly basis as part of the tuition support payment.

Further, as passed in HEA 1001, the annual per-pupil NESP funding for EL students scoring levels one or two on the WIDA Consortium ACCESS assessment, or those who take Alternate ACCESS, has been increased to \$550. The annual per-pupil NESP funding for EL students scoring levels three or four on the WIDA Consortium ACCESS assessment has been increased to \$384.

Included below is a breakdown of the changes that will take place beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and how these changes differ from previous school years.

NESP Funding Shifts		
Topic	Prior to 2023-2024 School Year	Beginning with 2023-2024 School Year
Distribution of Funds	LEAs received an allocation amount, and then submitted a grant application detailing their expenditures. IDOE reviewed for approval.	LEAs receive their funding allocations directly through monthly tuition support payments. <i>No application is required.</i>



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Funding Allocation	Allocation amounts were cited in the state budget, but often had to be prorated based on total allocation and increases in student population. The 2022-2023 allocations were \$446.97 for Tier 1 ELs (overall proficiency 1.0-2.9, and Alternate ACCESS) and \$312.20 for Tier 2 ELs (overall proficiency 3.0-4.9).	Allocations increased to \$550 for Tier 1 ELs and increased to \$384 for Tier 2 ELs. Allocation amounts will no longer be prorated, and the full amount will be provided.
Allocation Data	Funding was allocated based on the number of ELs reported on the previous year's Multilingual Learner Report in Data Exchange.	Funding will be allocated based on the current year's EL counts reported on the Multilingual Learner Report in Data Exchange.
Receiving Funds	After grant application approval, LEAs submitted a Cash Request Form to receive funding directly. LEAs could request funding by month or in a lump sum.	LEAs will receive the funding directly within the monthly state tuition payments. EL student count data is collected in the fall and finalized soon after. For the 2023-2024 school year, distributions will begin in December based on current year counts. In future years, LEAs will begin receiving distributions in July, estimated using previous year counts, which will be reconciled in December based on current year counts.
Eligible Entities	All K-12 public LEAs accurately reporting EL students to IDOE received a funding allocation.	All K-12 public LEAs accurately reporting EL students to IDOE will continue to receive a funding allocation. The following entities not eligible for state tuition funding are eligible for NESP funding through a separate allocation, and additional information on the distribution of these funds will be forthcoming: Department of Corrections, the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Indiana School for the Deaf, the Excel Centers for Adult Learners, the Christel House DORS Centers, and the Gary Middle College charter schools.



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Application and Reporting Requirements	LEAs with approved NESP applications were required to submit amendments when making changes to expenditures and completed a Financial End Report at the end of each grant period.	LEAs are only required to submit EL counts necessary to calculate the distribution. There is not an application requirement to receive a distribution of funds.
Funding Timelines Remaining Funds	LEAs had until June 1, to request funds and September 30, to encumber funds. Any remaining funds not encumbered by that date were returned to IDOE.	Distribution occurs as part of the monthly tuition support payment with proceeds deposited into the local Education fund.

Contact englishlearners@doe.in.gov with any questions.