



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Patrick C. Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

20 Feb. 2020

To: School Committee

Subj: VOTE TO ACCEPT NEW TARGETED GRANT FUNDS

Purpose:

The purpose of this targeted grant is to support the work of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) identified with significant disproportionality in special education for the 2019-2020 school year and LEAs that are at-risk of identification with significant disproportionality in special education for the 2020-2021 school year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) notified our district of disproportionality identification in August 2019.

Priorities:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) outlines requirements pertaining to significant disproportionality and the related fiscal implications. States are required to identify significant disproportionality in LEAs by race and ethnicity in special education identification, placement, and discipline.

IDEA requires that any school district identified with significant disproportionality must take specific actions to address that disproportionality, including targeting expenditures from the following year's IDEA Part B grant for these activities. Specifically, a district identified with significant disproportionality is required to:

- review and, if appropriate, revise policies, practices, and procedures (PPPs) to ensure compliance with the requirements of IDEA;
- publicly report on the revision of PPPs; and
- set aside 15 percent of its total IDEA Part B allocation and spend those funds on providing [comprehensive coordinated early intervening services](#) (CCEIS or Comprehensive CEIS) to address factors contributing to the significant disproportionality. Comprehensive CEIS is used to serve, particularly, but not exclusively, students in those groups significantly disproportionate from age three through grade 12 with *and* without disabilities.

The purpose of this grant is to provide funds to support identified and at-risk LEAs' participation in trainings and a professional learning community sponsored by DESE during FY20, and the related analysis and planning activities that will occur outside of sessions convened by DESE. For identified LEAs, this work is in service to planning for CCEIS activities that must occur in school year 2020-2021 to address root causes of significant disproportionality and to support the population(s) of students affected by it. At-risk LEAs may use funds to cover costs to participate in sessions convened by DESE and other related activities in school year 2019-2020.

Eligibility:

Local Education Agencies identified with significant disproportionality in special education for the 2019-2020 school year and LEAs that are at-risk of identification with significant disproportionality in special education for the 2020-2021 school year.

Funding Type:

Federal U.S. Department of Education

Funding:

LEAs identified in significant disproportionality in 2019-2020 are eligible to receive up to \$8,000 and this is the amount Shrewsbury has been awarded.

Grants funds are to be used to support identified districts' work in planning for implementing CCEIS in school year 2020-2021 and for at-risk district in later school years. Districts may use funds to participate in planned activities hosted by DESE, data and root cause analyses, planning, consultation, and related activities determined by the LEA based on their unique needs.

Grant Project Duration:

Upon Approval – 08/31/2020

Recommended Vote to Accept Funds:

It is recommended that the School Committee vote to accept the funds using the following motion:

“I move that the Committee accept the \$8,000 grant funds noted as FY2020: Significant Disproportionality in Special Education Targeted Federal Program Improvement Grant Fund Code: 258B”