

*Georgia Department of Education
Division for Special Education Services and Supports*



*Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Plan and Budget
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Revised on June 1, 2011*

1. ***My district would like to use the funds to provide an intervention for 7 elementary schools and 9 middle schools. Are we required to report CEIS for all students? Can we select a group of students for reporting purposes?*** Yes, you must provide CEIS data for all students participating in CEIS. There should be a direct correlation among the money spent, the intervention provided, and the students served.
2. ***My district has struggled to implement the Student Support Team (SST) process and would like to use the CEIS funds to pay the salary of an SST coordinator to organize the district's process. Is this choice appropriate based upon state guidelines?*** If the district chooses to use the funds to provide 100% of a staff salary, then the staff is 100% committed to the CEIS intervention. If the district supplements the staff salary, then there is local control to delegate other job duties (proportional to the salary) outside of the CEIS intervention.
3. ***My district conducted its data review and found that the main priority area is preschool. May I use the fund to provide interventions for preschoolers?*** No, federal guidelines have stipulated the funds for K-12 with a special emphasis on K-3 grades. However, you may choose to provide preschool interventions with other funding.
4. ***My district is disproportionate for discipline. Do we provide only behavior interventions?*** No, the district should always select interventions that will address the area of disproportionality; however, other interventions may be appropriate for addressing discipline issues such as language.
5. ***Can my district extend its "Early Intervention Program" (EIP) to accommodate struggling students who are eligible for CEIS?*** The district must always examine its data to determine the best intervention for struggling students. The first step is determining the effectiveness of EIP.
6. ***Will the State offer specific guidance as to how the CEIS funds should be spent?*** There are two main uses for CEIS funds as outlined by federal guidance: (1) Professional Development and (2) Educational/Behavioral Services, Supports, and Evaluations.
7. ***Can I spend more than the 15% to provide CEIS?*** Districts that are required to provide CEIS must use 15% of the IDEA funds. Optional districts may use up to 15%.
8. ***What happens if my district does not use the entire 15% for a school year?*** The district must expend the remaining amount the next fiscal year for CEIS, as well.
9. ***Why is the State requesting a preliminary budget with my CEIS plan?*** Districts submit the CEIS plans by June 30th and the official budget in the Consolidated Application by

October. Unfortunately, the delay in time creates an unfortunate disconnect among the plan, budget and designated audience.

10. ***May an optional district choose to provide CEIS in January?*** Although there are unique circumstances, districts should designate the option to use up to 15% by the Consolidated Application budget deadline in October.

11. ***Is there a quota for the number of students my district should serve in its CEIS program?*** No, the district should use local discretion to ensure that an appropriate amount of funds provide services for a comparable number of students.

12. ***May I use 100% of the CEIS funds to provide salary for support staff?*** The district should align the plan to its priorities, which are based upon data. An effective plan includes a modest balance of professional learning, staffing, and interventions.

13. ***My district will use some of the CEIS funds to provide professional learning from a behavior interventionist. If the district will not incur additional expenses, “Can other teachers who are not involved with the CEIS intervention attend the training?”*** Yes, this is a classic example of incidental benefits. The district does not incur additional expenses, and the fidelity of the training is not compromised.

14. ***The district will purchase software to provide a reading intervention for struggling students. The district will track 30 students for the CEIS data. Can we offer the reading intervention to other students? The company will charge the district \$3000.00 for 300 additional students.*** If the district incurs expenses for the additional students, then there must be reporting accountability for those students, as well. Or the district can use another funding source to pay for the \$3000.00 and not provide tracking information for the State.

15. ***What are the budgeting categories typically used for CEIS budgets?*** Ideally, budget selections will fit into one of the following categories:
1000 Series- Instructional activities dealing directly with the interaction of teachers and students;
2100 Series - Pupil Services dealing directly with activities designed to assess and improve the well-being of students and to supplement the teaching process; and
2210 Series - Improvement of Instructional Services including activities which are designed primarily for assisting instructional staff in planning, developing, and evaluating the process of providing challenging learning experiences for students.

16. ***What is my fiscal accountability after the completion of CEIS in my district?*** Districts must ensure appropriate procurement procedures for resources previously purchased for CEIS. These supplies should reside in the special education department.