

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

July 25, 2011

TO: SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF AND TEACHERS

FROM: CINDY ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SPECIAL EDUCATION



SUBJECT: ANCHORAGE SPECIAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ABOUT INTENSIVE FUNDING

What is Intensive Funding?

Once annually, the District claims all enrolled students for funding reimbursement from the state. Additional funds are provided to the District for students who receive special education services. Since not all special education eligible students receive the same services, the state law recognizes that school districts provide extensive and costly individualized services to a small portion of special education students and therefore may require additional financial assistance for these students. When the District provides special education services to a student for their entire school day and school week, the District considers claiming this student's services for reimbursement at the intensive funding rate as opposed to the typical special education allocation.

How can students be considered for Intensive Funding?

The student's IEP and ESER must establish the need for intensive services as well as plan for providing these services to the student during the year the student is claimed for intensive reimbursement. Students must be enrolled by the last day of the count period (typically in late October) in order to be counted for intensive funding for that school year.

Does the student's placement automatically determine the level of funding?

No, students for whom the district receives intensive funding may receive services in a regular or self-contained classroom as long as the entire program is provided by or supervised by a qualified special education teacher or related service provider.

What are the criteria for a student to receive intensive funding?

A child with a disability may be counted for intensive funding if the child's individualized educational program meets ALL of the following criteria:

1. Direct daily instruction by a teacher endorsed in special education.

2. Provision of multiple services including related services. This means that in addition to special education, the child must also be receiving at least one related service involving instruction (in addition to special transportation). Related services provided through a consult model do qualify as related services for purposes of claiming a student for intensive funding.
3. Services supervised by at least one certified special education teacher or related service provider. This means that all of the students' services (as described in the IEP) throughout the entire day and week are provided by or supervised by a special education teacher or related services provider.
4. The need for continuous special education programming. This means the student needs specially designed instruction for the entire school day.
5. Assistance and training in two or more self-help, daily living, or adaptive skills (i.e., eating, toilet training, dressing, bathing, independent living skills, social skills, functional communication, functional academics, and goals to decrease incidence of maladaptive behaviors).
6. A special education aide or other supplemental support personnel is assigned to provide individual care to the student for the student's entire school day; the individual care provided:
  - a. Is not required when a certified special education teacher is providing direct instruction to the student;
  - b. May be provided by more than one person during the school day; and
  - c. A supervision ratio of no more than 1:3 is anticipated by the "individual care requirement".
7. The need for daily special transportation. The transportation requirement does not apply in the case of a child who has received daily special transportation for at least a year and no longer needs it.

Are there exceptions – do some students qualify for intensive funding without meeting the above criteria?

The following situations serve as exceptions to the above criteria and are allowable for intensive funding:

1. A child eligible for special education who is blind or deaf-blind and must read Braille
2. A child who needs and receives full-time services of a deaf education interpreter or tutor
3. A child whose IEP Team determines that out-of-state residential placement is necessary
4. A child who has a disability that prevents him or her from attending a regular or special education program even with the aid of special transportation, and the IEP Team's evaluation and the IEP indicate that a home-based or health-care-facility-based instructional program is appropriate to meet the child's needs.