

Restructuring Special Education Supports and Services for Students with Complex Support Needs Planning Grant

Grant Overview: The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is requesting consortium proposals from intermediate units (IU) and up to three member districts to engage in a planning grant to explore means by which to restructure educational services for students with complex support needs.

Students with complex support needs are those with disabilities who comprise approximately 1 – 2% of all students. Students with complex support needs: a) most often participate in statewide assessment via the PASA; b) include students who have intellectual disabilities and/or multiple disabilities; c) require intensive instruction, modifications, and supports to participate meaningfully and progress in the general education curriculum; and d) may require augmentative communication systems and assistive technology in order to access, communicate, participate, and progress in learning.

The purpose of the planning grants is to:

- Support IUs in exercising guidance and leadership with their member districts in programming for students with complex support needs.
- Identify the key variables in restructuring educational services for students with complex support needs that would better ensure increased opportunities for students, with appropriate supplementary aids and services.
- Engage in a planning process to address the key variables that impact the restructuring of special education supports and services for students with complex support needs, including: a) leadership; b) programming; c) professional development; d) staffing; e) resources and materials; f) facilities; and g) funding.

The district has indicated its interest to the IU and is waiting for a response. The board will receive an update once the district has had an opportunity to hear what the IU plans for the grant and determines if the planning grant remains a good fit for the district.

Amount of Award: up to \$20,000.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Due February 11, 2011. Notification in March/April 2011.

Alternatives if not Awarded: None.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the administration explore the possibility of working with IU #5 as part of a consortium for the Restructuring Special Education Supports and Services for Students with Complex Support Needs Planning Grant.