



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

July 15, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Special Education Services Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Funding Support  
Special Education Catastrophic Funds for School Year (SY) 2020-2021

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services Section, is pleased to announce the opportunity for local education agencies (LEAs) to receive additional funding through Alabama Special Education Catastrophic Funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. These funds are provided pursuant to the *Alabama Administrative Code*, Chapter 290-080-092, with the purpose of providing financial assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) in covering the direct special education instructional costs of providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities that would create a catastrophic fiscal impact on the LEA. A catastrophic need may arise when special education and related services are provided for a particular child or group of children whose needs are unduly expensive, extraordinary, and beyond the routine and reasonable special education and related services provided by the LEA.

Any city or county school system in the state of Alabama that has enrolled a child with a disability determined eligible for special education and related services under existing federal and state law, can submit a grant application to the ALSDE for financial assistance. The LEA may apply to receive funds by submitting a completed **Special Education Catastrophic Funds** application with supporting documentation (postmarked by September 1st or November 30th—based on remaining Catastrophic Funds available\*). Please mail the completed grant application and supporting documentation to the following address:

Alabama State Department of Education  
Special Education Services  
Attention: Fiscal Section (Catastrophic Funds)  
P. O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

*\*Special Note: Applications and supporting documentation sent via electronic mail will not be accepted.*

The Special Education Catastrophic Funds application will be available on the ALSDE website. All funds awarded must be expended by September 30, 2021, and are not automatically awarded in subsequent years.

If you need clarification or have any questions regarding Catastrophic funds, please contact Mrs. Erika Richburg at telephone number (334) 694-4782 or via email at [erichburg@alsde.edu](mailto:erichburg@alsde.edu).

EGM/ER/RS

cc: Directors and Coordinators of Special Education  
Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Mrs. Angela Martin  
Ms. Crystal Richardson  
Mrs. Erika Richburg  
Mr. Barry Kachelhofer

FY20-2096

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