July 24, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey  
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Special Education Services Grant Opportunity  
Alabama Catastrophic Funds for School Year (SY) 2019-2020

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services, 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) 2020. These funds are provided pursuant to 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 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 an exceptional child with disabilities 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 Catastrophic Special Education Fund 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  
Office of Student Learning, Special Education Services  
Attention: Fiscal Section (Catastrophic Funds)  
50 North Ripley Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

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

The Catastrophic Special Education Fund application is available on the ALSDE website. Click on Department Offices. Under the Teaching and Learning Improvement Division, click on Special Education Services. At the far right, click on Fiscal Information. The Catastrophic Special Education Fund application can be found under the Grant Applications tab. All funds granted must be expended by September 30, 2020, 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.

EGM/ER/RS

cc: Directors and Coordinators of Special Education Services  
Dr. Daniel Boyd  
Dr. Elisabeth Davis  
Ms. Crystal Richardson  
Mr. Barry Kachelhofer

FY19-2112