

May 5, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** System Superintendents

**FROM:** Martha Reichrath, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Standards, Instruction, and Assessment

**SUBJECT:** Low Incidence Grant Application for FY 10

The Georgia General Assembly, through the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act, has again appropriated funds for low incidence grants for students with disabilities. The criteria for the grant are outlined in Georgia Special Education Rules, Rule 160-4-7-.18 GRANTS FOR SERVICES.

Low Incidence Grant funds are available for those local school systems (LSS) not earning enough state dollars to employ a teacher who can provide appropriate services. Systems eligible for Low Incidence Grants are those whose projected individual LSS or combined LSSs QBE earnings are less than 60 percent of the cost to **employ one teacher** in an area of disability when shared services are not feasible. Low Incidence Grant funds must be used for teachers' salaries and benefits, which will allow students with disabilities to have access to appropriately certified teachers. A school system that has earned QBE earnings for at least one low incidence teacher's salary and benefits are not eligible to apply. *Paraprofessionals, Interpreters, Orientation & Mobility specialists, and teachers of preschool students ages 3-4 are not funded with this grant.*

A Low Incidence Grant Application and associated documents are posted under the "Budget and Grant Applications" link on the DES web page: [http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci\\_exceptional.aspx](http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_exceptional.aspx). Because each system has unique needs and resources, the application is presented as a format and should be used as a guide for the type of information necessary to make a determination of need. Your system may submit additional information and use additional space to accurately and completely identify your system's needs. Also posted is a worksheet you may use to calculate QBE earnings.

A system/agency may submit a single or a consolidated system application or an application for more than one disability area. The system should submit a separate application for each area of disability identified as a need. It is necessary to calculate direct instructional cost earnings for the system according to FY 10 projected QBE weights.

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Please submit completed applications to Sheila Burse, Division for Special Education Services, Georgia Department of Education, 1870 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5040 by Friday, June 19, 2009. **No applications will be accepted after June 19, 2009.** Each local school system or agency applying for a grant for FY 09 will be notified of the status of the application in August 2009.

Please contact Dr. Frank Nesbit at (404) 657-9976 or [fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:fnesbit@doe.k12.ga.us) with any questions.

MR:fn

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Kathy Cox  
RESA Directors  
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DOE Distribution List (Memo only)