

# Accessing Technical Assistance on IDEA Fiscal Issues

The Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funded three technical assistance (TA) centers that have responsibility for responding to issues regarding *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) fiscal reporting and data collection. The centers are the Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR), IDEA Data Center (IDC), and the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI). Although each center has its own work scope related to fiscal issues, there is some overlap; when the work scopes overlap, the centers will work together to address state needs.

- CIFR is charged with building capacity and improving knowledge of state staff around IDEA Part B fiscal reporting requirements.
- IDC is responsible for assisting states in building capacity and improving the quality of IDEA data, including fiscal data.
- NCSI has designated a three-person Fiscal Support Team (FST) to manage fiscal questions that are outside the work scope of the other two centers.

## We encourage states to reach out to any of the centers, and we will coordinate efforts to ensure the state's needs are met.

The tables below summarize the objectives and activities of each of the three OSEP TA centers responding to state requests for TA on collecting, reporting, and analyzing IDEA fiscal data.



CIFR provides TA to state education agencies (SEAs) to help them meet their federal obligation to collect and report special education fiscal data for Part B.

### The objectives include:

1. Helping states build their capacity to collect and report accurate IDEA Part B fiscal data
2. Increasing states' knowledge of the underlying fiscal requirements and the calculations necessary to submit valid and reliable data around Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS), local education agency (LEA), Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)



IDC provides TA to build capacity within states for collecting, reporting, and analyzing high-quality IDEA data. IDC works with states and LEAs to help them address challenges encountered in reporting IDEA data, including the MOE and CEIS data.

### The objectives include:

1. Increasing state capacity for reporting high-quality IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS
2. Developing training materials to help IDC stakeholders better understand collecting and reporting requirements under IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS
3. Providing training and support to IDC stakeholders to build state capacity for collecting and reporting high-quality IDEA data, including LEA MOE and CEIS



The overall purpose of the NCSI is to help states transform their systems to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. The NCSI FST supports SEAs by addressing a wide range of IDEA fiscal questions and concerns in relationship to the development, implementation, and evaluation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and other priority areas.

### The objectives include:

1. Providing states with technical assistance regarding fiscal issues to support LEAs and in improving outcomes for children with disabilities
2. Collaborating across national TA centers to ensure state access to a continuum of support



**The activities include:**

1. Maintaining an informative website
2. Maintaining an active listserv
3. Engaging states in communities of practice (CoP)
4. Developing tools and templates
5. Providing universal, targeted, and intensive TA to support individual and groups of states
6. Collaborating with IDC and NCSI to provide coordinated support to states on IDEA fiscal issues that are outside of CIFR's work scope



**The activities include:**

1. Developing tools and products and integrating them into TA efforts when and where appropriate
2. Providing general, targeted, and intensive TA for individual and groups of states to help build capacity for collecting, reporting, and accessing high-quality IDEA data, including the SSIP
3. Hosting a Learning Community
4. Providing assistance around the connection between IDEA 616 and 618 data (e.g., differences between significant disproportionality and APR indicators B9 and B10)
5. Collaborating with CIFR and NCSI to provide coordinated support to states on IDEA fiscal issues that are outside of IDC's work scope



**The activities include:**

1. Responding to questions related to IDEA fiscal issues and reporting that exceed the specific areas addressed in the work scope of the CIFR or IDC
2. Helping states understand the relationship of and how to leverage fiscal planning to improve outcomes by analyzing and addressing infrastructure, resource mapping, and policy development and implementation
3. Collaborating with other national TA centers, including CIFR and IDC, to ensure states have accurate technical information and access to specific areas of expertise

## Contact Us

**CIFR**

[cifr.wested.org](http://cifr.wested.org)

Submit questions at the “contact us” section of the website

**IDC**

[ideadata.org](http://ideadata.org)

Submit questions to your IDC State Liaison

**NCSI FST**

[ncsi.wested.org](http://ncsi.wested.org)

Submit questions at the “Ask the NCSI” feature on the NCSI website

States are encouraged to reach out to any of the centers, and we will coordinate efforts to get them the help that is necessary. Regardless of the origin of the inquiry, all questions will be routed to the appropriate person and, if necessary, TA center, for a prompt, accurate response.