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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 23, 2016
TO: Intermediate School District Directors of Special Education
FROM: John A. Andrejack, 
Supervisor, Program Finance, Office of Special Education
SUBJECT: Validation of Section 53a Pupils for the October 2016
Pupil Count Date

Section 53a of the State School Aid Act provides 100 percent reimbursement of the added cost for eligible pupils who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) are to coordinate the process of determining which pupils within their ISD and constituent local education agencies or districts are eligible.

Eligible pupils are defined as follows in §388.1653a of the State Aid Act:

1. Pupils assigned to a district or an intermediate district through the courts or a state agency, if the pupil was a resident of another intermediate district at the time the pupil came under the jurisdiction of the court or a state agency.
2. Pupils who are residents of institutions operated by the Department of Community Health (DCH)[see attached list].
3. Pupils who are former residents of DCH institutions for the developmentally disabled who are placed in community settings other than the pupil's home.
4. Pupils enrolled in a department-approved on-grounds educational program longer than 180 days, but not longer than 233 days, at a residential child care institution, if the child care institution offered in 1991-92 an on-grounds educational program longer than 180 days but not longer than 233 days.
5. Pupils placed in a district by a parent for the purpose of seeking a suitable home, if the parent does not reside in the same intermediate district as the district in which the pupil is placed.

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Attached is a list of Section 53a pupils validated by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for the February 2016 Count from your intermediate and constituent local districts.

The process for validating Section 53a pupils for the October 2016 Pupil Count is as follows:

1. Compare the attached 2015-16 February list of validated Section 53a pupils with your 2016-17 October Section 53a pupil enrollment as reported on the DS-4061, State Aid FTE Count – Worksheet A.
2. Make any deletions or corrections in red on the 2015-16 February list of pupils. If no deletions or corrections are necessary, please indicate so on the list and return the list to the Department.
3. For any new pupils **not** on the 2015-16 February list, complete the enclosed form, entitled "New Section 53a Pupils", and attach the following documentation:
 - a. **NOTE:** Pupils must be eligible for membership to be claimed as Section 53a on the October 2016 Pupil Count Date **and not in a program with a federally funded teacher under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).**
 - b. The name, age, and special education FTE for each pupil.
 - c. For court or state agency placed pupils, attach either court or state agency documents verifying the pupil was placed by the agency and the pupil lived in another ISD when coming under the jurisdiction of the court or state agency.
 - d. For pupils who were former residents of Department of Community Health (DCH) Institutions for the Developmentally Disabled placed in community settings, attach written verification from DCH/Community Mental Health (CMH) that the pupil was a resident of a DCH institution and the dates, both beginning and ending, that the pupil was institutionalized.
 - e. For parent placed pupils, attach the parents' address and school district of residence at the time of placement and a statement signed by the parent indicating the placement was made for the purpose of providing a suitable home.
 - f. For pupils residing in DCH institutions, attach copies of Worksheet A from the DS-4061 form.
 - g. Reminder: pupils submitted for Section 53a eligibility must also have an IEP on file. The IEP does not have to be submitted to the OSE.

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Return the February 2015-16 list with or without changes, the necessary required documentation, and **COPIES OF YOUR DS-4061 A WORKSHEETS for all pupils** to the following address by November 23, 2016:

Rene Richardson
Office of Special Education
Michigan Department of Education
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Also attached for your reference are the criteria for validating Section 53a pupils. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Rene Richardson in Program Finance. Ms. Richardson can be reached by email at (RichardsonR2@michigan.gov), or by calling the Office of Special Education, Program Finance at (517) 241-1235.

JAA:RR:eh

Attachments