

## GRANT FOR RESIDENTIAL AND REINTEGRATION SERVICES

Georgia Department of Education  
Division for Special Education Services and Supports

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services (GRRS) can assist a school system with full/partial funding for a high cost placement of a student with disabilities to a private residential program or reintegration back from a residential program.

1. Applications must thoroughly describe that a full continuum of services has been considered within the school system or regionally before a residential placement is considered. The system makes the referral to the private residential school selected to meet the student's individual needs. Private residential schools must comply with the student's IEP and Georgia Rules governing special education.
  - a. Private residential schools in Georgia to which students are recommended for placement must meet applicable standards and be on the approved state list.
  - b. Private out of state schools must meet the requirements of the state in which they are located. Documentation must be included with the application that the out of state school has been approved by the Special Education Department from the state in which the school resides.
2. The grant period is calculated for the duration of the residential placement occurring within the current fiscal year (**July 1 through June 30**). The student's IEP(s) submitted with the application must document the beginning and ending dates of services falling within the time frame of the current fiscal year.
3. Since this is a state grant, the current school year becomes the grant period. If the system has determined that the student is in need of an extended year program, the appropriate section of the grant application must be completed but only for the current fiscal year (**July 1 through June 30**).
4. **The grant covers only direct special education costs, related services, and room and board.** Any transportation costs must be covered by the system submitting the application. Actual monthly invoices or the annual contract from the private residential school must be attached to this application.
5. The minimum amount considered for a grant application to be processed is \$30,000.
6. Funds allocated for grants for residential and reintegration services are very limited and designed to assist school systems in the funding of private residential school placements and reintegration services for a very small number of students with disabilities. The system must first consider an in-state private residential program; however, if an appropriate program is not available then an out of state private residential program may be considered.
7. Systems that apply for assistance must assume full responsibility for the funding of the residential program at the time the application is submitted. Grants are not automatically funded. If a grant is approved, only the state's designated percentage will be funded (Based on the revenue distribution percentage for the state portion). Available funds are also dependent on legislative actions or other budget constraints. If the amount of the applications exceeds available funds, system awards will be reduced and prorated.

8. The staff of the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports will review all grants. Funding will be awarded based on the following priority per state rule, 160-4-7-.18 Grants of Services.
  - Children with profound and severe disabilities requiring residential services who are wards of the State.
  - Children with profound and severe disabilities requiring reintegration from a residential program.
  - Children with profound disabilities needing residential services.
  - Children with severe disabilities needing residential services.
9. The following additional considerations for funding the grant application will be addressed:
  - a. The system has not lapsed nor exceeded the carryover amount for IDEA-Part B funds in the previous two school years.
  - b. The system is in compliance with all systems of accountability and reporting to the Georgia Department of Education such as focused monitoring, student records, facilities, timelines, fiscal reports, and dispute resolution processes.
10. If a student who is currently funded through the Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services becomes the subject of a due process hearing, fiscal maintenance of the placement will be the responsibility of the local system. However, the local system may continue to apply annually for the grant award.
11. When making plans and reviewing IEPs for a student currently placed in a residential program, or for whom the system plans to place in a residential program pursuant to their IEP, or for a student for whom reintegration from a residential placement is being planned, systems should adhere to the following:
  - a. A representative from the system should visit the private residential school prior to the placement of a student in full time residential services, pursuant to an IEP. The student **MUST** be observed at least once a year by a representative of the system. This visit may coincide with a student's annual IEP review.
  - b. In considering placement in a residential program for students with profound and severe disabilities, it is essential that the system explores and considers appropriate options for services primarily within the state. Consideration should be given to local school programs, regional programs (i.e. programs local systems jointly support or services from a neighboring local system) and state supported programs (i.e. state funded as GNETS or state schools) to determine if the student's program can be provided in the state. Parents have a right for their child to be considered for a program located in Georgia. If a placement is recommended for an out of state program, parents must be informed, and if they object to the proposed out of state placement, they have a right to have their child considered for residential placement in the state of Georgia. Personnel in the Division for Special Education and Supports can provide a list of the approved programs in Georgia and will discuss any issues or questions regarding the placement of a student for whom the system is requesting a tuition grant.
  - c. For students with profound and severe disabilities, who are currently placed in private residential out of state programs, it is essential for the system staff to work with parents and other agencies, as appropriate, regarding the possibility of returning the student to a residential program in state or to the local community, as determined by the IEP team.

- d. Progress reports from residential programs are required. They should be received and reviewed by the system at least quarterly. If these are not received, contact the private program directly. Reintegration issues should be considered after the review of progress at appropriate times during the student's placement.

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

1. The application should be completed by an appropriate official of the school system. The Superintendent must complete the assurance statement and submit the application between January 1 to the deadline of the close of the business day on February 15 to:

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DIVISION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS  
1870 TWIN TOWERS EAST  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5040

2. In order to effectively evaluate the grant request, it is crucial that **all sections be completed** (make a notation of N/A or NONE- do not leave blanks) and that all required documentation is included with the application.
3. In addition to the completed application, the system must submit the following information for each student for both initial and continuation placements:
  - a. Documentation verifying that a student is a ward of the state, if applicable.
  - b. A copy of the student's current eligibility report.
  - c. A current, completed IEP that clearly documents the intensity and frequency of behaviors that require residential services and an explanation of the extent, if any, to which the child will not participate with nondisabled children in the regular class and in the nonacademic and extracurricular activities. The IEP must include the following information:
    - A record of the student's participation in required state testing; including test types, accommodations and a plan for test administration and score reporting.
    - Goals/objectives that address the behaviors which are preventing the student from being successful in a less restrictive environment.
    - An appropriately developed transition plan, when applicable.
  - d. A reintegration plan documenting reviews as appropriate.
  - e. Actual invoices from the private residential placement received to date.
  - f. For out of state placement: Documentation that the out of state school has been approved by the Division for Special Education Services and Supports from the state in which the school resides.
4. All grant funds will be allocated on or before June 1 and must be drawn down by the close of the current fiscal year or June 30<sup>th</sup>. Announcement of the grant awards will occur after the State Board approves the grant via the Director's eBlast. The system must post the grant and budget the funds in the Consolidated Application for approval prior to draw down of the funds.

**If you have questions about the documentation necessary for the Grant for Residential and Reintegration Services, you are encouraged to contact at Ginny O'Connell or Sandy DeMuth.**

## GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Please use this checklist to review your grant application prior to submission to the Georgia Department of Education.**

Yes No N/A	
	Is this grant for a student with severe emotional and/or cognitive disability?
	If the student is a ward of the state, is relevant documentation included?
	If the student is in the custody of a state agency, has a surrogate parent been appointed? Was the surrogate involved in the IEP development?
	Is the total fee for services over \$30,000 for special education, related services, and room and board? Does it include a daily or monthly rate?
	Has the availability and appropriateness of other fund sources for residential needs been addressed?
	Do beginning and ending dates for the application <b><u>match the initiation and duration dates</u></b> of the current IEP/ IEPs submitted with the application?
	Does the application adequately describe efforts to utilize local, regional, and state options before consideration of out of state placement?
	Does the application adequately describe the length of placement for each option or service addressed?
	Does the application provide a thorough explanation of the need for extended day services beyond 180 school days? Do the IEP placement minutes clearly document the need for extended-year services?
	Do the <b><u>present levels of academic achievement and functional performance adequately describe the severity of the student's educational deficits</u></b> that would lead to the development of goals and objectives for the student to benefit educationally in a residential program?
	<b><u>Is the student's eligibility report included?</u></b>
	<b><u>Is the required state assessment addressed? Is there a plan for test administration?</u></b>
	Does the application include a <b><u>plan for reintegration</u></b> ? Have all of the components been thoroughly addressed?
	Are <b><u>invoices</u></b> for the services provided by the residential program included with the application?
	<b><u>For a school out of state:</u></b> Does the application include documentation that the school has been approved by the Special Education Department from the state in which the school resides?