



## **Recommendations for FY 2008 IDEA Part D Appropriations**

The IDEA Part D support programs provide the critical infrastructure, training, and development functions necessary to drive improvements in all aspects of special education practice. The support programs provide critical funds for professional development, technical assistance, and dissemination of knowledge about promising practices, to improve results for children with disabilities.

The Council for Exceptional Children believes that the Part D support programs should receive a total annual appropriation based upon a percentage derived from the overall federal annual appropriation for the state grant programs under IDEA (including the Part B Grants to States Program, the Part B Section 619 Preschool Grants Program, and the Part C Infants and Toddlers Program). In making its Part D support programs appropriations recommendations, the Council for Exceptional Children has used the private industry standard for research and demonstration; i.e., the percentage of the overall operating budget companies dedicate to ongoing research and demonstration (infrastructure) activities (also referred to as “R&D”). The private industry standard of 10 percent is typical for most businesses.<sup>1</sup> However, the Council for Exceptional Children has adopted a conservative funding formula index of 7.5 percent for infrastructure and R&D activities for purposes of calculating the recommended total figure for the Part D support programs. From there, we calculated the relative appropriation distribution by program within Part D and IES special education research based upon the programs’ allocated percentage under the Administration’s FY 2007 request.

### **What is the Council for Exceptional Children’s recommendation for FY 2008 IDEA Part D appropriations?**

The Council for Exceptional Children is calling on Congress to achieve full funding for IDEA within five years. Accordingly, we recommend an FY 2008 Part B Grants to States program appropriation of \$19.23 billion (an increase of approximately \$8.7 billion over FY 2007 appropriation), \$863 million for the Part B Section 619 Preschool Program (an increase of \$482 million over FY 2007), and \$725 million for the Part C Infants and Toddlers Program (an increase of \$302 million over FY 2007), for a total annual appropriation for these IDEA state grants programs of \$20.82 billion. Based on the rationale described above for calculating total annual Part D appropriations (that is, the total of the Part B Grants to States, Section 619 and Part C allocations multiplied by a 7.5 percent index for infrastructure and R&D), the Council for Exceptional Children recommends the following FY 2008 Part D appropriation levels:

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<b>National Activities (Part D)</b>	<b>(in thousands of dollars)</b>
(a) State personnel development.....	\$ 324,745 <sup>2</sup>
(b) Technical Assistance and Dissemination.....	\$ 315,377 <sup>3</sup>
Transition Initiative.....	\$ 12,490 <sup>4</sup>
(c) Personnel Preparation.....	\$ 579,232 <sup>5</sup>
(d) Parent Information Centers.....	\$ 165,494 <sup>6</sup>
(e) Technology and Media Services.....	\$ 162,372 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Total Part D appropriation recommendation.....</b>	<b>\$ 1,559,710<sup>8</sup></b>
(f) Research in Special Education innovation.....	\$ 358,733 <sup>9</sup>
<b>Total Part D and Research appropriation recommendation.....</b>	<b>\$1,918,443</b>

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<sup>2</sup>The Administration did not request any funds for FY2008 for State Personnel Development Grants, nor did Congress appropriate funds for FY 2007. CEC calculated its recommendation based on the FY 2006 appropriation of \$50.1 million. That amount's relative distribution for State Personnel Development Improvement within total Part D allocation equals 20.8 percent. Thus, this figure represents 20.8 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation. Please note that due to rounding, the sum of percentages may not equal 100 percent.

<sup>3</sup> FY 2008 Administration's request relative distribution for Technical Assistance and Dissemination within total Part D allocation equals 20.2 percent. Thus, this figure represents 20.2 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.

<sup>4</sup> This is a new Part D program under Technical Assistance, Model Demonstrations, and Dissemination of Information in PL 108-446. The President did not request any funds for this program for FY 2008. CEC calculated its recommendation based on the Administration's FY 2007 request of \$2 million. The FY 2007 Administration's request relative allocation equals .8 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.

<sup>5</sup> FY 2008 Administration's request relative distribution for Personnel Preparation within total Part D allocation equals 37.1 percent. Thus, this figure represents 37.1 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.

<sup>6</sup> FY 2008 Administration's request relative distribution for Parent Information Centers within total Part D allocation equals 10.6 percent. Thus, this figure represents 10.6 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.

<sup>7</sup> FY 2008 Administration's request relative distribution for Technology and Media services within total Part D allocation equals 10.4 percent. Thus, this figure represents 10.4 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.

<sup>8</sup> Calculation based on total projected appropriations for the IDEA Part B Grants to States Program, Section 619 Preschool Program, and the Part C Infants and Toddlers Program multiplied by 7.5 percent (see above).

<sup>9</sup> FY 2008 relative distribution for Research and Innovation within total Part D allocation equals 23 percent. Thus, this figure represents 23 percent of total FY 2008 recommended Part D appropriation.