

Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS): Challenges, Tools, and Technical Assistance

What Have We Learned and How Can We Help?

Kansas City, MO – May 10-11, 2016

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Savannah, GA – June 1-2, 2016

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Objectives of This Session

- Share findings on state practices and challenges with reporting data for MFS
- Provide overview of CIFR's MFS toolkit
- Describe CIFR support for states on this requirement

What Is MFS?

A State must not reduce the total amount of State financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities, or otherwise made available because of the excess costs of educating those children, below the amount of that support for the preceding fiscal year.

- 34 CFR 300.163(a)

How Do States Report MFS?

State aid to local education agencies (LEAs) for special education

- State aid makes no distinction for special education/state reports entire education aid to LEAs for MFS: **3 states**
- State aid for special education integrated into overall education aid/state extracts special education portion for MFS: **16 states**
- State aid for special education is explicit and separate from the overall education aid: **21 states**

Other State Agencies and MFS

- 10 of 41 states did not include “other agency” support in their MFS calculations
- Common agencies included:
 - Department of Corrections (18 states)
 - Human Services (10)
 - Juvenile Justice (8)
 - Rehabilitative Services (7)
- What makes up MFS? 93% state educational agency, 3% state schools, and 3% other state agencies*

* Averages based on 14 states

Other State Agencies and MFS

Data sources for other state agency support varied:

- Legislative appropriations (8 states)
- Expenditure data at end of fiscal year (8 states)
- Agency budgets (5 states)
- Estimated special education portion by applying percentage (2 states)

Key MFS Challenges

- Lack of documented procedures (18 states)
- Staff turnover and lack of transition planning (8 states)
- Perceived lack of authority over other state agencies (6 states)
- Difficulty isolating special education support (4 states)

Practices to Consider

- **Being prepared:** Documented procedures, trained back-up staff
- **Involving the legislature:** Yearly reporting to legislature on MFS, legislative liaison, incorporate MFS into state statute
- **Rounding up other state agencies:** Use of data collection form for all agencies, signed form returned even if no support provided, formalizing relationships with intra-agency agreements
- **Tracking data:** Excel files detail differences in total, and each line item, over time

The MFS Toolkit

- Purpose and intended audience
- What's in the toolkit
- How to use the tools

The MFS Toolkit: Its Purpose and Intended Audience

- Helps address the challenges expressed
- Intended for state MFS data managers and other stakeholders
- Ready to use
- Vetted by Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and pilot tested with states

What's in the Toolkit?

<https://youtu.be/rre4EZLKqB0>

Data Collection and Reporting Tool (DCRT)

- Getting Started Worksheet
- Contact Information Worksheet
- Yearly Input Sheets
- Summary Table and Summary Chart
- Attachments

Using the DCRT

To Get Started Please Set Year 1 for this Workbook and Enter the Year and Amounts for Last Time MFS Was Met

Set Year 1

1) State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1 for this workbook is: **2016** Data Entry Column

MFS Last Met

1) Enter SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met Using Total **2015** Data Entry Column

2) Enter Total MFS Amounts for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell B7)

3) Enter SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met Using Per Pupil Calculation **2015**

4) Enter MFS Amounts Per Pupil for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell B9)

5) Enter the Number of Individuals with an IEP for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell B9)

Summary of Total Maintenance of State Financial Support Amounts for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020

	State Fiscal Year 1	State Fiscal Year 2017
Total Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Amounts for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020	\$ 112,828,932.00	\$ 114,831,000.00
Total	\$ 112,828,932.00	\$ 114,831,000.00
Year-to-Year Absolute Change		\$ 4,002,068.00
Year-to-Year Percentage Change		3.55%
Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Amounts Per Pupil for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020		\$ 74,532.00
Other Number of Individuals With IEP	75,831	
Per Pupil	\$ 3,576.00	
Year-to-Year Absolute Change		\$ 0.00
Year-to-Year Percentage Change		0.00%

Worksheet to Enter Maintenance of State Financial Support Amounts for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016

SEA Office or Division	Identifier or Budget Code	Description	Amount of State Funds
Division of Financial Administration	1200 - Subgrantee	1250 - Special Education and Related Services	\$ 98,754,432
Division of Financial Administration	1200 - Subgrantee	1260 - Extended School Year Services	\$ 1,350,000
Division of Financial Administration	1200 - Subgrantee	1270 - PPS	\$ 2,500,000
Division of Curriculum and Instruction	1800 - Specialty Designed Instruction	1860 - Alternative Assessment	\$ 500,000
Total SEA Financial Support for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017			\$ 103,104,432.00

Identifier or Budget Code	Description	Amount of State Funds
Behavioral Services		\$ 220,000
Identification & Assessment		\$ 343,000
Special Education		\$ 2,500,000
Coaching		\$ 1,000,000
State Funding Made Available		\$ -
State Funding Made Available	1250 - Special Education and Related Services	\$ 400,500
Specialty Designed Instruction	1250 - Special Education and Related Services	\$ 4,500,000
Health Services		\$ 750,000
Financial Support for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017		\$ 9,724,500.00
Support for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017		\$ 112,828,932.00

Total Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Amounts for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020

Fiscal Year	SEA	Other State Agency	Total
2016	\$103,104,432	\$8,724,500.00	\$111,828,932.00
2017	\$107,308,294	\$9,724,500.00	\$117,032,794.00
2018	\$107,432,385	\$9,724,500.00	\$117,156,885.00
2019	\$107,432,385	\$9,724,500.00	\$117,156,885.00
2020	\$108,875,543	\$9,724,500.00	\$118,600,043.00

Other State Agency Funds

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Special Education		\$ 2,500,000
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CIFR Technical Assistance (TA)

- **Targeted TA:** Facilitate Communities of Practice (CoP), respond to individual state TA requests through the CoP facilitators, follow up with states based on TA referrals from other ED-funded centers and requests through the CIFR website or other sources
- **Intensive TA:** Address more complex fiscal challenges related to MFS, LEA Maintenance of Effort, and Coordinated Early Intervening Services
 - Development of detailed TA Plan with a focus on sustainable, long-term systems change
 - CIFR staff engaged both on-site and virtually to implement the plan over time

How Can CIFR Help States Meet MFS Obligations?

Address key challenges encountered by states in accurately calculating and reporting MFS data

- Developing policies and procedures
- Developing training materials about MFS collection and reporting requirements
- Assist in identifying special education support to include in MFS calculations
- Assist in addressing MFS compliance concerns

Questions?

For More Information



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