

Building Capacity for High-Quality IDEA Data



IDC Interactive Institutes on High-Quality Part B Data In collaboration with **CIFR, CIID, & NTACT**

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 Steve Smith, CIFR Wayne Ball, CIFR

Savannah, GA – June 1-2, 2016 Pakethia Harris, CIFR Carol Cohen, CIFR

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)

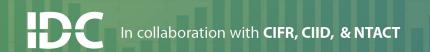
Practices to Consider

- 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

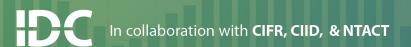
- Purpose and intended audience
- What's in the toolkit
- How to use the tools





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



12

In collaboration with CIFR, CIID, & NTACT

Data Collection and Reporting Tool (DCRT)

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



Using the DCRT

mary of Total Maintenance of State Financial Support Amounts for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020 Α в С State Fixed Yes State Fiscal Year 1 2014 2017 To Get Started Please Set Year 1 for this Wookbook and Enter the Year and Amounts for Last Time MFS Was Met Years 2016-2020 nce of State Financial Support (MFS) An Total 117,838,912 156,85 Tear-to-Tear Adsolute Charge Data Entry Column Set Year 1 Year-to-Year-Percentage Change Maintenance of State Financial Sue 1) State Fiscal Year (SFY) 1 for this workbook is: 2016 Enter Number of Individuals With EP Here 74,552 79,971 Per Pupi Year-to-Year Absolute Change MFS Last Met Data Entry Column Teat-to-Tear Percentage Change MJS Determinations 1) Enter SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met Using Total 2015 MFS Mut MFS Detormination Using Total Amounts VFS ML 2) Enter Total MFS Amounts for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell 87) MIS Determination Using Per Pupil Amou MIS Determination Using Ether Calculatio UNCEASE MIS MH VFS Met MF5 Mct 3) Enter SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met Using Per Pupil Calculation 2015 Maintenance of State Financial Support (NVS) Amounts by SLA/Other State Agency Status for State Fiscal Years 205 108,104,482.00 107,108,2 4) Enter MFS Amounts Per Pupil for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell B9) Other State Agency 5) Enter the Number of Individuals with an IEP for SFY in Which MFS Was Last Met (Cell B9) Tatle 110,812.1 Total Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Amounts by Other State Agency for State Final Year 2016 2000 5 STACCOLD 5 STACCOL Department of Behaviors Health and Devel 1,500,000,00 3,500.00 400.500.00 400.50 1.4 bopartment of Corrections beat/Minst/Cither Loss Instidents 4.500.000.00 5 4.100.00 750.00 Exportment of Health 750.000.00 \$ Worksheet to Enter Maintenance of State Financial Support Amounts for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 SEA Funds SEA Office or Division Identifier or Budget Code Description mount of State Funds 1250 - Special Education and Related Services 98,754,432 Minimum foundation form ision of Financial Administration 200 - Sabgrantee ision of Financial Administration 1200 - Subgrantee 1260 - Extended School Year Services 1,350,000 Special appropriation to off sion of Financial Administration 2,500,000 Special appropriation to exp 200 - Subgrantee 1270 - PBIS 1300 - Specially Designed Instruction 1960 - Alternate Assessmen \$00,000 sion of Curriculum and Instruction Total SEA Financial Support for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 303,104,432.00 Total Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Amounts for State Fiscal Years 2016-2020 Other State Agency Funds Amount of State Funds \$125,000,000 **identifier or Budget Code** Description avioral counseling helogical Services 229,000 345,000 Psychological and behaviors Identification & Assessmen tional Education 2,500,000 Vocational counselors for to \$120,000,000 coching tate Funding Made Available 1,000,000 On site job coaches for stu-State Funding Made Available 1250 - Special Education and Related Services 400,50 ally Designed Instruction 1250 - Special Education and Related Services 4,500,000 \$115,000,000 750,000 Includes medication admini ol Health Services 5310-000-000 Financial Support for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 9,724,500.00 Diffeet State Agency pport for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 112,828,932.00 = 32A \$505,000,000 5800,000,000 \$208,875,548 \$107,412,101 \$337,482,881 A Year 2 A Year 3 A Year 4 A Year 5 A Table - Summary Chart - Total MFS Years 1 to 5 + Contact Information 🔒 Year 1



In collaboration with CIFR, CIID, & NTACT

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







For More Information

In collaboration with CIFR, CIID, & NTACT







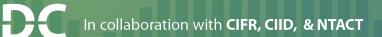
For More Information

IDC Visit the IDC website http://ideadata.org/



Follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/ideadatacenter





This presentation was supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Education, #H373Y130002 and #H373F140001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

Project Officers: Richelle Davis and Meredith MiceliProject Officers: Matthew Schneer and Matthew Clark









collaboration with CIFR, CIID, & NTACT