

Adjustment to 2025-2026 Charter School Exceptional Children Funding

Purpose

Section 7.56 of SL 2026-41 directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to allocate additional Exceptional Children (EC) funding to eligible charter schools that did not receive an additional prorated allocation for a child with disabilities enrolled during the first 60 days of the 2025-2026 school year. This document establishes the process that DPI will use to identify eligible students, calculate funding amounts, and distribute funds.

Overview

DPI will use a survey-based verification process to identify students for whom a charter school may be eligible to receive additional EC funding pursuant to Section 7.56. Information submitted through the survey will be reviewed and verified by DPI before any additional funding is allocated. This survey process is the same process that was used for schools that received funding in FY 2025-26.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under Section 7.56, a charter school must meet all of the following requirements:

1. The charter school did not complete the Exceptional Children 60 Day Transfer Count Survey during the 2025-2026 funding process as requested by DPI.
2. The charter school did not receive an additional Exceptional Children allocation through the prior survey-based process for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. The charter school submits a completed Exceptional Children 60 Day Transfer Count Survey to DPI no later than September 15, 2026, as described below.
4. The charter school enrolled one or more eligible students with disabilities during the first 60 days of the 2025-2026 school year.

Survey Administration

DPI will distribute the **2025-2026 Exceptional Children 60 Day Transfer Count Survey** to charter schools that did not complete the survey during the 2025-2026 funding process and, as a result, were not considered for and did not receive any additional Exceptional

Children funding through that process. These schools may now be eligible for funding pursuant to Section 7.56(a).

The survey will be distributed via email to the Finance Director, School Director, and Exceptional Children Director contacts listed in EDDIE for each charter school that did not complete the survey during the 2025-26 school year. In addition, the survey and a list of non-responding schools will be included in the School Business Newsletter. This communication will be sent to all charter schools, providing an additional opportunity for schools to verify their eligibility and complete the survey if needed.

The survey will request student-level information for the 2025-2026 school year and will require charter schools to identify children with disabilities enrolled during the first 60 days of the school year for whom the school believes it is eligible to receive an additional prorated allocation.

Pursuant to Section 7.56(c), charter schools will be provided with a minimum of 30 days to submit the requested information. The survey will be distributed on or before August 15th and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on September 15th.

Timeline

Activity	Date
Publication of process and survey instructions	On or before August 15 th , 2026
Distribution of survey to eligible charter schools (Newsletter and Direct Contact)	On or before August 15 th , 2026
Deadline for survey responses	September 15 th , 2026
DPI Verification of submitted student data	September – October 2026
Calculation of additional funding amounts	October 2026
Processing of allotments to eligible charter schools	On or before November 3 rd , 2026

Verification Process

Upon receipt of survey responses, the Exceptional Children Division of DPI will review each student submitted by a charter school.

DPI will verify:

1. That the student was identified as a child with disabilities during the 2024-2025 December 1st exceptional children's headcount.

2. That the student enrolled in the charter school during the first 60 days of the 2025-2026 school year.
3. That the charter school did not previously receive an additional prorated allocation for that student during the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Any other information necessary to determine eligibility under Section 7.56.

DPI may request additional information or documentation from a charter school if necessary to complete the verification process.

Funding Determination

After the verification process is completed, DPI will determine the number of eligible students associated with each charter school.

Funding amounts will be calculated based on the applicable Exceptional Children funding methodology and prorated allocation procedures used by DPI for the 2025-2026 school year.

Consistent with Section 7.56(d), no charter school shall receive additional funding for a student if the school previously received an additional prorated allocation for that student during the 2025-2026 school year. Additionally, no charter school shall receive supplemental funding that would exceed the 13% cap on Exceptional Children funding.

Distribution of Funds

Approved allocations will be posted to the allotment system and eligible to withdraw in the PSU Cash Application no later than November 3, 2026.

Non-Response to Information Requests

Charter schools that do not submit a survey response or fail to provide requested information by the established deadline will be ineligible to receive any additional funding.

Pursuant to Section 7.56(e)(3), DPI will include in its legislative report a list of schools that did not respond to the Department's request for information needed to verify student enrollment and eligibility for funding.

Legislative Reporting

DPI will report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division no later than January 15, 2027, as required by Section 7.56(e), including:

1. The process used to identify charter schools and students eligible for additional funding.
2. The schools that received funding and the amount received.
3. A list of schools that did not respond to DPI's request for information.
4. Any changes made to the process from the previous year.
5. Recommendations for legislative improvements, if applicable.