

**Executive Summary**  
**Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**06/10/2014**  
**State Compensatory Education**  
**Student Success Initiative and Accelerated Instruction**  
**REPORT**

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**Board Goal:**

Growth, change, and fiscal responsibility...demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

**Purpose of Report**

The intent of this report is to provide background into the issue and request approval of the funding set aside to address the mandate.

In a recent To the Administrator Addressed ([TAA letter dated April 9, 2014](#)), Michael Williams, Commissioner of Education, writes,

"House Bill 5, 83rd Legislative Session, added new TEC §28.0217 to require each school district to provide accelerated instruction in the applicable subject area each time a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument. Accelerated instruction may require participation of the student before or after normal school hours and may include participation at times of the year outside normal school operations.

House Bill 5 also amended TEC §29.081 to require school districts to offer, without cost to a student, additional accelerated instruction in any subject if the student failed to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment instrument that measures the knowledge and skills in that course and is required for graduation. **Your district or charter school is required to separately budget and prioritize state compensatory education funding and any other funding necessary to sufficiently support the cost of additional accelerated instruction for students who fail to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment instrument. State compensatory education funds cannot be used for any other purpose until your district or charter school has sufficiently funded additional accelerated instruction.** Your school district or charter school must use program intent code 24 when coding additional accelerated instruction expenditures."

He continues,

**"This letter serves as my certification that sufficient funds have been appropriated to support implementation of accelerated instruction programs for grades three through eight as well as for high school for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years as specified under Texas Education Code (TEC) §§28.0211 and 28.0217, the Student Success Initiative."**

This statement was written despite the fact that districts have seen a gradual decrease in Student Success Initiative (SSI) funding from the state over the past five years (and as far back as the TEA archives allow):

2008-09: \$513,432
2009-10: \$150,069
2010-11: \$124,861
2011-12: \$NA
2012-13: \$75,145
2013-14: \$0

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As of the 2013-14 school year, zero dollars of SSI funds were provided by the state while (at the same time) expecting more students in more grade levels be served.

#### Objectives

- In Williams TAA letter, he states,

"Your district or charter school is required to separately budget and prioritize state compensatory education funding and any other funding necessary to sufficiently support the cost of additional accelerated instruction for students who fail to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment instrument. State compensatory education funds cannot be used for any other purpose until your district or charter school has sufficiently funded additional accelerated instruction. Your school district or charter school must use program intent code 24 when coding additional accelerated instruction expenditures."

- Currently, there is a total of \$184,412.58 available to support the requirements outlined above. Approval of the current set-aside for accelerated instruction from State Comp Ed funds is requested. (Note: Denton ISD also provides accelerated instruction to students who failed to perform satisfactorily through a variety of other services such as Project Share for EOC, courses for at-risk students (at Denton HS and Ryan HS [using At-Risk, or AK funds]), AK funds (at Calhoun MS, McMath MS, Myers MS, and Strickland MS as well as Davis School), reading and math interventionists at all Denton ISD elementary schools.)

#### Operational Impact

In the development of the budget in June 2013, Denton ISD allocated its allotment of State Compensatory Education (SCE) funds to meet the needs of students identified as at-risk. Commissioner Williams waited until April 2014 (ten months into the budget year) to issue his directive to divert previously allocated SCE funds to satisfy his edict.

Despite the Commissioner's certification, "**that sufficient funds have been appropriated to support implementation of accelerated instruction programs for grades three through eight as well as for high school for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years as specified under Texas Education Code (TEC) §§28.0211 and 28.0217, the Student Success Initiative,**" no additional dollars were provided, which serves as another example of an unfunded state mandate. As a result, Denton ISD must redirect its SCE funds in order to offer accelerated instruction to support implementation of accelerated instruction programs for grades three through eight as well as for high school for all students failing to perform satisfactorily on the state assessment instrument.

As stated previously, there is a total of \$184,412.58 available to support summer accelerated instruction. However, in addition to insufficient funding from the state, STAAR and EOC scores are not received until the last week of the school year. Thus, the district is not notified in a timely manner as to how many students will require accelerated instruction prior to the third examination. The district relies on the first administration results to predict a possible number. It is unknown if the funds set aside will be sufficient to meet the numbers of students requiring summer accelerated instruction. And this does not take into account the costs required to implement individual Accelerated Instruction Plans throughout the following school year, which is also required of every student who does not perform satisfactorily on the assessment

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instruments. This is especially fiscally challenging now that more students are required to be served (**grades three through eight as well as for high school**) as opposed to the just five years ago when the Student Success Initiative mandates emphasized grades three, five, and eight (only) and was supported financially with \$513,432.

**Results**

Denton ISD will strive to meet every student's individual needs as required by the Student Success Initiative using State Comp Ed funds.

**Other Options**

The state has left districts no choice but to redirect funds as required by the Commissioner of Education.