

Conceptual Framework for A CDS Bill to Transition Provision of services to 3 and 4 year old children with Disabilities to SAUs

Phase in Fiscal years 2019-20 to 2024 A school administrative unit shall apply to the department to begin providing early childhood special education and related services under this section beginning in fiscal year 2019-20 to 2023-2024. During the implementation phases, SAUs shall be expected to serve an increasing number of students with disabilities, reaching the target percentage of 15% of 3 to school-age 5 year olds within the SAU's catchment area. *Year 1: by 2019-2020 the SAU will serve at least 50% of the targeted percentage of the 4 year old children with disabilities; Year 2: by 2020-2021 the SAU will serve at least 75% of the targeted percentage of 4 year old children with disabilities. Year 3: by 2021-2022 the SAUs will serve 100% of the 4 year old children with disabilities in the catchment area; Year 4: by 2022-2023 the SAUs shall serve at least 50% of the 3 year old children with disabilities; Year 5: by 2023-2024 the SAUs shall serve all 3 year old children with disabilities in the catchment area.* SAUs that operate 4 year old public preschool programs shall ensure that students with disabilities are able to access public preschool programs. Each SAU who operates a less- than- universal preschool program shall ensure that their procedures for selecting students provide for equitable access for students with disabilities.

Costs of Services for the children age 3-5 with disabilities

The funds for the services for this population will be reimbursed to the SAUs from the CDS funds that are allocated. These funds will be separate from the EPS Formula for the school age population.

Space

SAUs can apply for the Lease Space Program within the Maine Department of Education. Link: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/facilities/lsp>
(See attached resource from the web page)

Transportation

There are currently Volkswagen Settlement funds that can be applied for through the Department of Transportation to support the purchase of school buses.

CDS Staff

Given the significant need on the part of SAUs, proposals are being discussed in which experienced CDS Case Managers may be imbedded in SAU Special Education Teams to ensure the presence of personnel, with the required expertise, are available to take responsibility for child find and coordination of the service provisions for children. This proposed imbedding of CDS Case Managers will also support the smooth transfer of these services to the SAU.

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TO: MSSA Members

FROM: Steven Bailey, MSMA/MSBA Executive Director
Patrick Manuel, MSSA President
Eileen King, MSSA Executive Director

DATE: January 10, 2019

RE: Conceptual Framework for a CDS Bill to Transition Provision
of services to 3 and 4 year old children with Disabilities to SAU's

Background information is being provided with this memo as history to the proposed legislation.

As you remember from the fall of 2017, two superintendents were members of the CDS Task Force that met and created a report filed with the Commissioner of Education in December of 2017. That report led to L.D. 1870 that was debated and voted out of the Education Committee with a divided report in favor of the bill. An additional task force was to be initiated but that never happened.

Given the lack of action, we initiated meetings with Jan Breton, Roy Fowler, Jill Adams of MADSEC, Dick Durost and Holly Couturier of MPA and others from the MDOE. We did this for two reasons: 1) We knew what conditions needed to be met for such a transition to occur. These conditions have been shared over and over again at meetings of superintendents, principals, directors of special services, and school board members. And 2) the MSBA Delegate Assembly and Board of Directors have passed resolutions to support legislation that will accelerate the transition of services from CDS to the SAUs because some children were not being served. We wanted to be proactive in this process and help define the conditions needing to be met for a successful transition of services. We didn't want the bill "done to us."

The meetings have been ongoing since July and many drafts and redrafts of the proposed bill have occurred. The result is L.R. 1977, An Act to Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age. Jaci Holmes, of MDOE, has prepared a summary Conceptual Framework of the resolve. That summary follows.

The proposed bill was shared with the MSBA Board of Directors at their January 5, 2019, meeting and will be shared to get feedback from the MSSA Executive Committee

at their meeting to be held on Friday, January 18, 2019. The bill being submitted is one version. We know there is at least one other bill submitted with a similar intent. We therefore recognize there will be discussion, debate and most likely amendments to what is proposed. Should you have input you wish to be considered, please share with your representative on the MSSA Executive Committee prior to Winter Convocation.