

From: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@afloridapromise.org) <patricia@afloridapromise.org>
Sent time: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:44:28 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>; Greenberg, Stuart; Champion, Linda
Cc: Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org) <Joanna@afloridapromise.org>; Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Stu,

Thanks. What happens to the unexpended funds from reading in the last two years?

Are those funds spent on reading?

I'm having a hard time fighting for more money for reading when it looks like districts have consistently not spent \$24 million a year the last few years.

Does DOE not let them spend their funds? How do they implement their reading plans if they aren't spending the reading money?

Patricia

From: Greenberg, Stuart [mailto:Stuart.Greenberg@fldoe.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:44 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org); Champion, Linda
Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Good afternoon,

This year all districts are using the FEFP funds as requested through the K-12 Reading Plan per the approved plan. Please feel free to send me all follow-up questions on this topic or any other issue related to data or reading achievement and we will follow-up as soon as possible.

Stuart Greenberg
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From: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) [<mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Champion, Linda; Greenberg, Stuart
Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Great – thanks.

From: Champion, Linda [<mailto:Linda.Champion@fldoe.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:18 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org); Greenberg, Stuart
Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Mary Laura – I do not have that, but am copying Stu. His office would have the amended plans. And, yes, categorical funds are retained by the districts for the specified purpose of the funding.

*Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner
Finance and Operations*

From: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) [<mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:15 PM
To: Champion, Linda
Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Linda,

Thanks for this. Do you have the records/paperwork showing what changes the districts is making as required in the last section of the law? (pasted here for you). Who approves those changes, or is it just a formality? And can you send the paperwork from those six districts that submitted the changes?

(d) If a district school board transfers funds from its research-based reading instruction allocation, the board must also submit to the Department of Education an amendment describing the changes that the district is making to its reading plan approved pursuant to paragraph (9)(d).

Also, for those districts who have unexpended reading allocation funds, do they roll over, and if so, are those funds still considered reading funds?

Thanks – I know you are swamped right now.

ML

From: Champion, Linda [<mailto:Linda.Champion@fldoe.org>]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org)
Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: Categorical Flexibility statute

Mary Laura – see column G which shows the six districts that utilized the flexibility for reading funds during the past year. Please let me know if you need anything else.

*Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner
Finance and Operations*

From: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) [<mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:12 PM

To: Champion, Linda

Cc: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)

Subject: FW: Categorical Flexibility statute

Linda,

Can you tell me how many districts are currently (or at least from the most recent report) using their reading funds for other things? If it is easier to get the answer from Just Read, I'm happy to ask them and not burden you. Just let me know, and thanks.

Mary Laura

1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each district for operation of schools is not determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as follows:

(6) CATEGORICAL FUNDS.—

(a) In addition to the basic amount for current operations for the FEFP as determined in subsection (1), the Legislature may appropriate categorical funding for specified programs, activities, or purposes.

(b) If a district school board finds and declares in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board that the funds received for any of the following categorical appropriations are urgently needed to maintain school board specified academic classroom instruction, the school board may consider and approve an amendment to the school district operating budget transferring the identified amount of the categorical funds to the appropriate account for expenditure:

1. Funds for student transportation.

2. Funds for safe schools.

3. Funds for supplemental academic instruction.

4. Funds for research-based reading instruction.

5. Funds for instructional materials if all instructional material purchases necessary to provide updated materials aligned to Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and benchmarks and that meet statutory requirements of content and learning have been completed for that fiscal year, but no sooner than March 1. Funds available after March 1 may be used to purchase hardware for student instruction.

(c) Each district school board shall include in its **annual financial report to the Department of Education the amount of funds the school board transferred from each of the categorical funds identified in this subsection and the specific academic classroom instruction for which the transferred funds** were expended. The Department of Education shall provide instructions and specify the format to be used in submitting this required information as a part of the district annual financial report. The Department of Education shall submit a report to the Legislature that identifies by district and by categorical fund the amount transferred and the specific academic classroom activity for which the funds were expended.

(d) If a district school board transfers funds from its research-based reading instruction allocation, the board must also submit to the Department of Education an amendment describing the changes that the district is making to its reading plan approved pursuant to paragraph (9)(d).