

Census Block Funding Implications

Local School District Special Education Staffing

ACT 153

Passed in late 2009/2010

Required Licensed Special education staff to be employed by and funded at the Supervisory Union Level

Unlicensed Special Education Staff (paraeducators, one on ones, behavior interventionists, etc) could continue to be employed and funded at the local school district level

Grand Isle Member District Non Licensed Special Education Staff

The member districts of the the Grand Isle Supervisory Union (Alburgh, Champlain Island Unified Union, and South Hero school districts) made the decision to keep non-licensed support staff at the local level.

Non licensed support staff in the Grand Isle Supervisory Union are represented by The Alburgh Support Staff Association in Alburgh, the CIUUSD Support Staff Association in Grand Isle and North Hero, and are non-union employees in South Hero.

Funding projections

The commitment with the first year of the Census Block Grant Funding was the grant would be roughly equivalent to reimbursements under the previous model.

The projection GISU received from the AOE for the GISU Census Block Grant for FY 23 is approximately \$2,010,000

This figure is built on an average of the FY 18, 19 and 20 special education reimbursements made directly to the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. The projection does not include qualified special education reimbursements made directly to Alburgh, CIUUSD, and South Hero school districts.

Special Education Spending Not Accounted For

In FY 21 the Alburgh, CIUUSD, and South Hero School Districts received more than \$750,000 in qualified special education reimbursements directly from the state for special education staff hired directly by the local districts in accordance with ACT 153.

Alburgh \$296,673

CIUUSD \$276,326

South Hero \$184,163

These payments are reflected in each school districts Town Payment Report

Implications

More than \$750,000 in reimbursements for qualified special education expenses are not accounted for.

Missing this revenue in Alburgh, CIUUSD, and South Hero will result those districts exceeding the Excess Cost Threshold.

SUs who meet the requirements of ACT 153 in a different (but equally legal) way have the same expenses included in their census block grant projections.