MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Roy Stehle, Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability
John Payne, Interim Director, Office of Exceptional Children

DATE: January 24, 2014

RE: Using Federal Funds for Summer Reading Camps (Proviso 1.84)

This memorandum clarifies questions that the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) received regarding Summer Reading Camps, as outlined in Proviso 1.84 and the memorandum issued by SCDE on December 10, 2013. The General Assembly passed this proviso requiring school districts to offer a Summer Reading Camp, stating in part:

“The reading camps must provide an educational program offered in the summer by each local school district for students who are substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency at the end of third grade.

Using federal funds for Summer Reading Camps would violate the basic “supplement, not supplant” requirement of federal programs. A school district may not use federal funds to provide services that the district is required to make available under federal, state, or local law. Federal dollars may possibly be used to supplement the basic Summer Reading Camp Program by funding additional students who do not qualify under the guidelines but may benefit from the program’s interventions. If federal funds are used to expand beyond the basic program, those students must be eligible for those funds under the specific program requirements. For example, Title I funds could not be used to fund students who attend non-Title I funded schools.

Using Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part B federal funds to implement Summer Reading Camps as outlined in Proviso 1.84 would also violate the excess costs and “supplement, not supplant” requirement provisions of IDEA Part B. School districts may only use IDEA Part B funds to pay for allowable activities providing special education and related services for eligible students with disabilities. IDEA Part B funds must be used only to pay the excess costs of providing special education and related services to those students (34 C.F.R. §§ 300.16 and 300.202). Funds provided to the district under IDEA Part B may be used for activities outlined in districts’ IDEA applications for special education costs and related services provided in a regular education class or other education-related setting to students with disabilities in accordance with the students’ Individualized Education Program (IEP). When considering other funding sources, school districts may possibly use state and/or local special education funds to implement a required Summer Reading Camp program, provided those costs are pursuant to a student’s IEP.
Districts should review specific circumstances when using federal funds to ensure the “supplement, not supplant” requirement is not violated. Please contact the SCDE federal program office if you wish to add students and expand the Summer Reading Camp program for guidance on funding sources.

If you have questions, please contact Roy Stehle in the Office of Federal and State Accountability at (803) 734-8118, rstehle@ed.sc.gov, or John Payne in the Office of Exceptional Children at (803) 734-8224, jrpayne@ed.sc.gov.