

281—98.2(256,257) General finance. The categorical funding provided for various purposes to school districts and area education agencies includes general financial characteristics that are detailed in the following subrules:

98.2(1) Indirect cost recovery. Categorical funding provided by the state to school districts or area education agencies is not eligible for indirect cost recovery unless the Iowa Code section authorizing the funding or allocation expressly states that indirect cost recovery is permitted from that source. If the Iowa Code permits indirect cost recovery, the school district or area education agency will utilize its restricted indirect cost rate developed by the department for federal programs from data submitted by the school district or area education agency on its certified annual report.

98.2(2) Mandatory carryforward. Notwithstanding the flexibility account as described in rule 281—98.27(257,298A), any portion of categorical funding provided by the state that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year in which it was received by or for which it was allocated to the school district or area education agency will be carried forward as a reserved fund balance and added to the subsequent year's budget for that purpose. The funding can only be expended for the purposes permitted for that categorical funding. Where a local match is required for categorical funding, the amount unexpended at the end of the fiscal year that is carried forward will not be used as part of the required local match.

98.2(3) Discontinued funding. In the event that a categorical funding source is discontinued and an unexpended balance remains, the school district or area education agency may do one of, or a combination of, the following:

a. Carry forward the unexpended balance and expend the remaining balance within the subsequent 24 months for the purposes that were allowed in the final year that the funding was allocated or granted prior to discontinuation unless a rule in this chapter provides for a longer period. This option does not apply to market factor incentive pay funding, which may be carried forward until expended, but any expenditures from the market factor incentive pay funding must be appropriate under Iowa Code section 284.11.

b. Transfer the unexpended balance to the flexibility account as described in rule 281—98.27(257,298A).

98.2(4) Expenditures. Expenditures from categorical funding are limited to direct costs of providing the program or service for which the funding was intended. Expenditures will not include costs that are allocated costs or that are considered indirect costs or overhead. Expenditures for the functions of administration, business and central services, operation and maintenance of plant, transportation, enterprise and community service operations, facility acquisition and construction, or debt service generally are not allowed from categorical funding unless expressly allowed by the Iowa Code or if the expenditure represents a direct, allowable cost. In order for costs of administration, business and central services, operation and maintenance of plant, transportation, or enterprise and community service operations to be considered direct costs, the costs must be necessary because of something that is unique to the program that is causing the need for the service, not otherwise needed or not otherwise provided to similar programs; the costs must be in addition to those that are normally incurred; and the costs must be measurable directly without allocating. Where a local match is required for categorical funding, that local match requirement will not be met by the use of other categorical funding except where expressly allowed by the Iowa Code. Expenditures do not include reimbursing the school district or area education agency for expenditures it paid in a previous year in excess of the funding available for that year.

98.2(5) Restriction on duplication. The school district or area education agency will not charge the same cost to more than one funding source.

98.2(6) Excess expenditures. The school district or area education agency will not charge to categorical funding more expenditures than the total of the current year's funding or allocation, plus any carryforward balance from the previous year, plus any moneys designated from the flexibility account as described in rule 281—98.27(257,298A).

98.2(7) Commingling prohibited. Categorical funding shall not be commingled with other funding. All categorical funding will be accounted for separately from other funding. School districts and area education agencies will use a project code and program code as defined by Uniform Financial Accounting for Iowa School Districts and Area Education Agencies, as effective on February 7, 2024, as appropriate or required.

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