



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**SCHOOL FINANCE MEMORANDUM 18-025**

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**TO:** School District Superintendents, Business Managers, Joint Technological Education District Superintendents and Business Managers, Charter District Administrators, and Charter District Directors

**FROM:** Lyle Friesen, Deputy Associate Superintendent of School Finance

**DATE:** October 30, 2017

**SUBJECT:** FY 2018 Rural Assistance Eligibility, Distribution, and Reporting

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Pursuant to CHAPTER 305, SB 1522, Section 123, the total of \$2,600,000 from the investment of monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund (A.R.S. 35-144) will be made in a one-time appropriation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for Rural Assistance. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will distribute this assistance to School Districts and Charter Districts meeting the eligibility requirements.

**Rural Assistance Eligibility**

Rural Assistance will be distributed to School Districts or Charter Districts located in a county with a population of less than 500,000 (Excludes Maricopa and Pima) per the 2010 United States decennial census, or to School Districts or Charter Districts that primarily serve homeless or special needs pupils; regardless of the county in which it is located.

For the purposes of this funding, "Primarily serves homeless or special needs pupils" means that at least 80% of the pupils at the School District or Charter Districts are homeless or qualify for a special education group B weight pursuant to A.R.S. 15-943, paragraph 2, subdivision (b).

Only School Districts or Charter Districts which were in operation in FY2016-2017 are eligible.

## **Rural Assistance Distribution**

ADE School Finance will distribute the Rural Assistance in two distributions based on the FY2016-2017 unweighted average daily membership. To allow time for the completion of corrections to the FY2016-2017 student data, the first Rural Assistance distribution (70%) will be made in November, 2017, and the second distribution in March, 2018. Please see the preliminary allocation in School Finance hot topics:

<http://www.azed.gov/finance/2017/10/12/fy2018-rural-assistance-preliminary-allocation/>

## **Rural Assistance Reporting**

When distributed, Rural Assistance monies should be recorded in an Other State Fund, 465-499.

Rural Assistance may be expended for any legal purpose of the School District or Charter District.

Please direct questions related to Rural Assistance to the School Finance Payment Team at [SFPaymentTeam@azed.gov](mailto:SFPaymentTeam@azed.gov)