$349,870 Approved by State
For '68 ESEA School Program Here

The Berkeley Unified School District's compensatory education program has been guaranteed 80 per cent of last year's funds and has had its proposed programs approved by the State Board of Education.

The board approved an allotment of $349,870 from federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the "target area" program, administered by John Cleveland of the school district.

The board is waiting for Congressional action on the national ESEA act before it can deliver Berkeley another 20 per cent to bring this year's allocation in line with last year's $437,338, according to Cleveland.

The district is one of 51 in California that has been guaranteed 80 per cent of last year's funding, with the other 20 per cent due as soon as Congress passes education legislation.

The funds go toward reading instruction, counseling services, reduction of class size, cultural enrichment, expansion of libraries, study centers and tutoring in schools which serve poverty area children.

Through the ESEA program, 250 children from poverty area schools have been bused to other schools in the city in a pilot program, preceding the Board of Education's decision to desegregate the city's 14 elementary schools next fall.

Other programs sponsored by ESEA in Berkeley have included adult drama workshops, community conferences, student workshops, neighborhood workers, teacher aides, and student retreats, such as one occurring this weekend at Camp La Honda involving 120 students from West Campus.

The student retreats are in cooperation with the Berkeley YMCA.

The sum awarded Berkeley is less than that of the first year of the ESEA program during the 1965-66 school year when Berkeley was granted $513,172 for "target area" schools.