



Federal Program Monitoring and Support Updates January, 2017

FOSTER CARE PROVISIONS UNDER TITLE I, PART A

As you are aware, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) establishes new protections for children in foster care under Title I, Part A (Title I). These provisions complement the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act) and further promote the purpose of Title I – to ensure that all children receive a high-quality education and to close achievement gaps between student groups. The foster care provisions under Title I were effective December 15, 2016. While the recent Executive Order issued by President Trump postpones any final regulations that had not become effective prior to the date of the Executive Order, the foster care provisions under Title I remain in effect in accordance with the ESSA.

To assist with local implementation of the foster care provisions, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Human Health Services (DHHS) and the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G) will conduct eight regional meetings across the state in February and March. We hope that the local point of contact (POC) from the education agency and child welfare agency in the same area will take advantage of this opportunity to attend the nearest session together. Additional information including the schedule of meetings and registration information may be found [HERE](#).

ESSA: EQUITABLE SERVICES TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

As we approach the 2017-18 implementation year of ESSA, our division is planning a series of webinars to outline some of the provisions of ESSA that will impact the submission of the plan and funding application through the web-based grants management system, the Comprehensive, Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) this fall. Recognizing that local planning for the upcoming application will begin over the next few weeks, the first webinar, *ESSA: Equitable Services to Private Schools*, is scheduled for **Thursday, February 9, 2017**. One session will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and repeated from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. To register for one of the two webinars, click [HERE](#).

Prior to the webinar, it may be helpful to review the non-regulatory guidance document provided earlier, [Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services Requirements Under the Elementary And Secondary Education Act Of 1965 \(ESEA\), as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#). The equitable services section, beginning on page 29, describes a new requirement that the proportionate share of Title I funds for equitable services to private schools must be based on the total LEA allocation prior to any reservation of funds including administrative costs. If you have questions that would be helpful to address during the webinar, please send those in advance to Paula Langill at paula.langill@dpi.nc.gov by Monday, February 6, 2017.



ESSA: LOCAL EQUITY PLAN

The CCIP submission for 2017-18 will require LEAs and charter schools receiving federal Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A funds to review and revise existing Equity Plans as necessary to ensure that economically disadvantaged and minority students are not taught at higher rates by ineffective teachers. While the document will continue to be uploaded in the Related Documents section, we are revising the template to provide additional information in compliance with ESSA. NCDPI will review local equity plans and provide feedback as necessary as part of the funding application and approval process. To view NC's approved Equity Plan, please go to:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/programmonitoring/titleIA/equity-plan/>.

Please save the date for **Tuesday, February 28, 2017**, for a webinar on Equity Plans. One session will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and repeated from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. To register, click [HERE](#).

ESSA: LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS

As in previous reauthorizations of the ESEA, the ESSA requires that LEAs may receive a Title I subgrant if the LEA submits a plan to the SEA and the SEA approves the plan to ensure compliance with the requirements of the law. While many of the requirements remain unchanged, some new requirements are included. For example, the ESSA requires that the LEA plan include a description of “how the local educational agency will implement strategies to facilitate effective transitions for students from middle grades to high school” and “how the local educational agency will support efforts to reduce the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom.”

Our division is currently reviewing all of the LEA plan requirements and determining how to incorporate any new requirements into CCIP in a way that reduces burden and duplication as much as possible. Please save the date for **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**, for a webinar on LEA Plans. One session will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and repeated from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. To register, click [HERE](#).

ESSA: SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS

Under the ESSA, schoolwide programs continue to be an essential way of using Title I funds to most effectively utilize the local, State, and Federal funds available to Title I schools to promote school reforms and raise student achievement. In September of 2016, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) provided updated guidance on schoolwide programs. In particular, this guidance document highlights specific advantages and flexibilities inherent in schoolwide programs, clarifies common misunderstandings about schoolwide programs that may persist, and serves as a resource, in conjunction with existing guidance, for SEAs, LEAs, and schools. The document is posted at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaswpguidance9192016.pdf>.



MOU FOR CHILD NUTRITION DATA

Each year the Title I office completes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the office of School Nutrition Services for the specific purpose of providing local federal program directors with access to child nutrition information in order to complete the annual Eligible School Summary Report (ESSR) and determine school allotments for the Title I funding application. The 2016-17 MOU is posted at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/>. This MOU will provide local Title I staff with the authority to receive access to appropriate information for determining 2017-18 within district allocations. If changes or updates are needed to the list of directors included in the current MOU, please email Richard Trantham at Richard.trantham@dpi.nc.gov.

DATA COLLECTION

The following table provides dates for upcoming federal data collections in PowerSchool.

TAS Targeted Assistance Schools	LEAs and charter schools with TAS schools	17 Mar 2017 – 26 May 2017	Children eligible and/or served in TAS programs along with services provided during school year. (Student-level)	Reported to USED Included in CEDARS
SIG School Improvement Grant	LEAs and charter schools with SIG schools	17 Mar 2017 – 26 May 2017	# School Year Minutes, Intervention Model, and Type of Increased Learning Time. (School-level)	Reported to USED Included in CEDARS
RLIS Rural, Low-Income Schools	LEAs and charter schools receiving Title VI – RLIS funds	17 Oct 2016 – 26 May 2017	Purpose for which RLIS funds were used during school year. (LEA-level)	Reported to USED Included in CEDARS

USED GUIDANCE

Please find below quick links to some of the most recent USED guidance provided since October, 2016.

- [ESSA Dear Colleague Letter on 2017-2018 Transition](#) (January 13, 2017)
- [ESSA Transition FAQs](#) (January 18, 2017)
- [ESSA Early Learning Guidance](#) (January 17, 2017)
- [ESSA Fiscal Changes & Equitable Services Guidance](#) (November 21, 2016)
- [ESSA Title IV, Part A Guidance – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program](#) (October 21, 2016)
- [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Title II, Part A](#) October 13, 2016
 - [ESSA Webinar Audio Recording](#) (October 13, 2016)
- [Non-Regulatory Guidance: English Learners and Title III Program](#) October 5, 2016
 - [ESSA Webinar Audio Recording](#) (October 5, 2016)