



LEA/BOCES Consolidated Application FAQ's

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Q. When will allocations be released?

Answer: CDE does not have information about the anticipated released of allocations and will not have information until an appropriations bill is passed by Congress. The Federal government is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution until April 28, 2017. Assuming an appropriations bill is passed in April, State allocations may not be known until May/June. As a result, local education agency (LEA) allocations may not be known until June/July.

Q. What if allocations are delayed?

Answer: If allocations are delayed to the point that the June deadline is unrealistic, CDE will establish a revised deadline and inform the LEAs of the updated timeline.

Q. Will the President's proposed budget affect my allocation?

Answer: The President's proposed budget may have implications for education spending. It is important to know that the proposed budget is for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and it is at the discretion of the Congress to consider specific aspects of the President's proposal as they determine amounts for education spending for the 2018-2019 school year.

Note: CDE is following reports of future budget adjustments and will provide information as decisions are made and information becomes available.

Q. When will the application become available?

Answer: The Consolidated Application is being updated for the 2017-2018 funding year and is in the final stages of approval. As soon as the application is complete, notification of its release will be sent by email to application contacts.

Q. How do I update the contact information in the application?

Answer: LEAs may login to their application (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/consapp/login>) at any time to add, delete, and/or update application contacts. If there are any problems updating this information, LEAs should contact CDE at consolidatedapplications@cde.state.co.us.



Q. When is my application due?

Answer: The Consolidated Application must be submitted on or by June 30, 2017. LEAs will submit a completed narrative section at that time or request additional time (until Sept. 30th) to complete the narrative sections of the consolidated application. The option to request additional time is provided in the online platform.

Note: If allocations are delayed to the point that the June deadline is unrealistic, CDE will establish a revised deadline.

Q. When will applications be reviewed?

Answer: Applications submitted by June 30th with completed narrative responses will be reviewed within 30 days of receipt. Applications submitted by June 30th, wherein the applicant is requesting additional time for completing the narrative, will be reviewed upon receipt of the completed application.

Q. What is due before the application can be reviewed?

Answer: The information needed before the application can be reviewed includes items needed for Substantial Approval and a complete response to all narrative questions.

Q. What will CDE consider a complete response to the narrative questions?

Answer: A complete response provides the detail requested in the question. This includes information based on the LEA's local context and provides the reviewer with insight into how the LEA's federally funded activities support the LEA's overall program, as outlined in the LEA's comprehensive needs assessment. Responses should thoughtfully connect the LEA's programs/activities with the purpose of each Title program, as specifically identified through the narrative question prompts.

Q. How should I use the Additional Considerations?

Answer: The Additional Considerations are provided as a resource that may be used as the LEA/BOCES is developing responses to the narrative question. These considerations provide valuable information that may be incorporated as the LEA/BOCES is designing their programs to meet the specific needs of the students in their district.

Q. When can I expect feedback?

Answer: CDE will provide initial feedback to the LEA/BOCES within 30 days of the date an application is submitted with a completed narrative section.

Q. If our LEA/BOCES requests support from CDE, what types of support will we receive?

Answer: If an LEA checks the box to request more time to respond, they will also have the option to request more support from CDE. If the LEA requests more support from CDE through the Consolidated Application, a member of the Office of ESEA Programs will follow-up with the application coordinator at the LEA to determine how CDE can best provide support, whether through in-person meetings or a phone call.

CDE will provide support with the review of applicant data, identification of new ways to use federal funds, comprehensive needs assessment, allowable uses of funds, leveraging multiple funding sources and any other supports needed to develop a complete and approvable response to the narrative questions.

CDE encourages LEAs to request support from CDE prior to the submission of the Consolidated Application in order to ensure timely approval of the application.

Q. Will my completed application be declined?



Answer: No. CDE will work with the applicant to revise, update, and finalize the application until it meets the required components and is approvable.

Q. When can I obligate funds?

Answer: An LEA may begin to obligate funds by July 1st if the LEA/BOCES has met the minimum requirements for substantial approval:

Minimum Submission Requirements for Substantial Approval	
• Complete School profile	• BOCES Member District ARAC
• Assurances	• Budget
• Signature Form	• Nonpublic Schools Consultation Form
• Native American Education Tribal Consultation (Yearly Affirmation) Form	• Responses to narrative questions OR checked boxes to request more time

Q. What is the difference between substantial and final approval?

Answer: Substantial approval is granted when the applicant successfully submits the application, provides completed signature forms, the BOCES Member District ARAC (if applicable), Nonpublic schools consultation, Native American Education consultation forms and responses to narrative questions or check boxes requesting more time to complete responses. Substantial approval allows applicants to obligate funds for activities outlined in the application budget. Final approval is granted when the all requirements are met and the LEA has received approval of the LEA plan. Once final approval is granted, applicants can submit a request for funds to pay for activities outlined in the application.

Q. When can I draw down funds?

Answer: An LEA/BOCES may draw down funds once a completed application has final approval.

Q. What is required to submit for Nonpublic School consultation?

Answer: Under ESSA, LEAs are required to submit the results of consultation to the non-public school ombudsman. CDE has provided a [template](#) that the LEA may use in order to capture all of the required elements of consultation, as well as other provisions required under sections 1117 and 8501-06 of the ESSA. LEAs must only submit the results of consultation with participating non-public schools. CDE suggests that LEAs retain evidence of their invitation(s) to participate, however, the LEA should not submit documentation regarding non-participating non-public schools to the ombudsman.

If the LEA uses a different template, the LEA should ensure that the template aligns to the requirements in the ESSA. More information regarding the provision of equitable services under the ESSA may be accessed here:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/non-publiceducationincolorado>

Q. What is the Native American Consultation requirement?

Answer: Section 8538 of ESEA requires affected LEAs to consult with Indian tribes, or those tribal organizations approved by the tribes located in the area served by the LEA, prior to submitting a plan or application for covered programs. This requirement is designed “to ensure timely and meaningful consultation on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native students.” The consultation must be done “in a manner and in such time that provides the opportunity for such appropriate officials from Indian tribes or tribal organizations to meaningfully and substantively contribute” to plans under covered programs.

Specific information about this requirement can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ov/tvi>.



Q. What services should we provide to children in foster care?

Answer: LEAs must have, or adopt, policies and practices to ensure that children in foster care will remain, if possible, in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time placement. When remaining in such school is not in the best interest of the child, the LEA must provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the educational records of the child provided to the new school. The LEA must have, or adopt, policies and practices to ensure that the enrolling school will immediately contact the school last attended by the child in foster care to obtain relevant academic and other records.

LEAs must also have, or adopt, policies to ensure that children in foster care in need of transportation will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner. An LEA may use Title I funds to pay for additional costs needed to transport children in foster care to their schools of origin. Please note, however, that funds reserved for comparable services for homeless children and youth may not be used to provide transportation needed to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin. Additional guidance addressing the educational stability of children in foster care may be accessed here: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/edhhsfostercarenonregulatorguide.pdf>

Q. Where do I find the Consolidated Application Approval and Submittal signature form?

Answer: The Consolidated Application Approval and Submittal signature form is found on the Consolidated Application Website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/consapp/index>.

Q. Who needs to sign the Consolidated Application Approval and Submittal signature form?

Answer: The Consolidated Application Approval and Submittal signature form requires a signature from the board president and the applicant Authorized Representative. The board president and Authorized Representative will certify that all program requirements will be met and the LEA/BOCES understands the rules and regulations associated with the receipt of ESSA Program funds.

Q. What is the ARAC and who needs to complete it?

Answer: The Acceptance, Relinquishment, Assignment and Certification (ARAC) form allows LEAs to identify how allocated program funds will be managed by the LEA. The ARAC is built into the LEA application and BOCES collect a signed form from their member districts. BOCES can download this form at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/consapp/index>.

Q. If the application is a subset of the program requirements for ESSA, where do I find a complete list of the requirements?

Answer: The Office of ESEA Programs has individual webpages dedicated to each Title program included in the consolidated application. Program requirements, as well as required and allowable uses of funds, may be accessed on the appropriate Title webpage. The Office of ESEA Programs website may be accessed here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ov/index>

In addition to individual program requirements, LEAs must ensure that they are in compliance with additional Federal laws and regulations. Applicable assurances may be found in the consolidated application, as well as the Approval and Submittal form, ARAC, and Grant Award Notification (GAN). The statutory language of the ESSA and guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education may be accessed here: <https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=policy>



Q. How will supplement, not supplant work under ESSA?

Answer: The ESSA requires LEAs to demonstrate compliance with supplement, not supplant by demonstrating the methodology the LEA uses to allocate State/local funds to each Title I school to ensure that each Title I school receives all of the State/local funds it would have otherwise received if it was not receiving Title I, Part A funds.

CDE plans to release guidance to LEAs regarding the changes to supplement, not supplant provisions in Title I, Part A under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in the coming months.

Q. What do I need to do for Comparability?

Answer: LEAs will use the tools currently available to determine comparability; however, the process for submitting comparability data to CDE has been updated to align with the requirements under the ESSA. LEAs with schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) will be required to submit data biennially through the CDE online comparability platform or, when appropriate, the alternative worksheets. LEAs that do not have schools identified for CSI or TSI may use the alternative worksheets to ensure they are in compliance with comparability requirements; however, the LEA will not be required to submit the spreadsheets to CDE.

All LEAs must annually assure in the Consolidated Application that the LEA has policies, as outlined in section 1118(c)(2)(A) of the ESSA, to ensure that the LEA will meet comparability requirements. Additional information regarding the updated process may be accessed here: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/virtualacademy>

Q. What changes were made to the Set-Asides based on ESSA?

Answer: Several of the set-aside requirements have been removed or updated to reflect the transition to ESSA requirements.

- LEAs are required to determine the amount of funds necessary to provide equitable services under Title I, i.e. the proportionate share, based on the total Title I, Part A allocation. This means that the LEA must determine the proportionate share before taking other set-asides from the allocation.
- SES and Choice are no longer required under ESSA and therefore have been removed as a funding source from the budget in the consolidated application. The LEA may choose to continue to fund these activities with Title I, Part A funds in the consolidated application. SES activities are considered to be part of the Title I program at the individual school level. Choice activities are considered as a District Managed Activity (DMA) and may be coded as such if the LEA chooses to continue to fund this activity.
- Under ESSA, accountability requirements are based on school-level identification. As a result, the district Priority Performance Challenge (PPC) set-aside is no longer applicable and has been removed from the consolidated application.
- The Highly Qualified set-aside is no longer included in the consolidated application. The ESSA eliminated the highly qualified teacher and paraprofessional requirements and now defers these qualifications to State law.

Q. How will the flexibility to serve a high school at 50% impact the rank order requirements?

Answer: An LEA must rank its schools above the 75 percent poverty threshold without regard to grade span and serve those schools in rank order of poverty before it serves any schools at or below the 75 percent poverty threshold. Under the new ESSA exception, an LEA may, but is not required to, continue to serve (in rank order of poverty) high schools with poverty percentages between 50 percent and 75 percent before it either serves other schools with a poverty percentage of 75 percent or below or begins to rank and serve schools by grade span. In other words, an LEA may serve



high schools with 50 percent or more poverty before it serves any elementary or middle schools with a poverty percentage at or below 75 percent.