

# Equitable Services to Non-Public Schools

## Carryover Request under the Every Student Succeeds Act



### Requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act

Non-public schools are eligible to receive equitable services under Title I, Part A and Title VIII provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Sections 1118(a)(4)(B) and 8401(a)(1)(B) require funds allocated to a local educational agency (LEA) for educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, and families to be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the LEA.

### Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education released updated guidance in October 2019 addressing changes to the equitable services requirements under ESSA, including the requirement to obligate funds in the year in which they are appropriated. The guidance reiterates that the purpose of the requirement is to ensure the funds set-aside for equitable services are supporting eligible students, teachers, families, and staff in a timely manner, and also emphasizes the importance of the consultation process in meeting this requirement.

The U.S. Department of Education further clarifies that the requirement should be generally enforceable, but also acknowledges that LEAs providing equitable services as required in ESEA section 1117(a)(4)(B) generally should not significant carryover. ESEA does not prohibit carryover of funds for equitable services however, the LEA is required to consult with the appropriate non-public school officials regarding the option to carryover the funds.

### Equitable Services Carryover Request Process

To ensure LEAs comply with the intent of the provisions within ESSA and to balance the need for flexibility in carrying over funds that have not yet been obligated, LEAs should, generally, be able to obligate the funds set-aside to provide equitable services to participating non-public schools in the year in which the funds are appropriated.

- If the non-public school is unable to obligate funds within the funding year, the LEA must consult with the appropriate non-public school officials regarding the option to carryover the funds. The LEA should discuss the feasibility of expending all funds in the following year, discuss timelines for ensuring funds are completely obligated and determine when unobligated funds will return to the LEA for redistribution. LEAs and non-public schools should also consider if the amount to be carried over would have a substantial impact on services to be provided in the subsequent year for each individual school within the context of local priorities.
- In the event the non-public school **elects** to carryover funds in a given year, the funds will be carried over categorically and should support the equitable services to be provided to non-public school, as determined through consultation.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** Is the LEA required to set-aside funds to provide equitable services to non-public schools?

**A:** Yes. After the LEA has initiated consultation with eligible non-public schools and the non-public school chooses to participate in the LEA's federal programs, the LEA must set-aside funds to provide services to the non-public school. Services should be determined through consultation.

**Q:** What happens if the funds are not obligated in the year in which they are appropriated?

**A:** The funds set aside to provide equitable services may be carried over and budgeted in the next funding year.

**Q:** How does the LEA report carryover?

**A:** If a non-public school is unable to expend its equitable share of ESEA funds each year, the LEA will report carryover through the end of year report process, due annually by September 30.

- In the event the non-public school **declines** to carryover funds that have not been obligated, the funds will revert to the LEA's allocation and may be redistributed to the public schools.
- In the event the non-public school **elects** to carryover funds in a given year and the funds are not obligated in the subsequent year, the funds will revert to the State and will not be reallocated to the LEA for distribution.

Upon determining that the funds set-aside to provide equitable services to non-public schools will be carried over, the LEA must submit report and budget unused funds, categorically, in the following years Consolidated Application and report carryover funds through the end of year report process, due no later than September 30 annually.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Go to [Equitable Services under the Every Student Succeeds Act](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/equitable-services-colorado) for additional information. ([www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/equitable-services-colorado](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/equitable-services-colorado))