

FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

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TITLE I PLANNING FOR 2016-2017 UNDER ESSA

It is that time of the year when districts start planning for the upcoming school year. More and more districts look at the schoolwide flexibility allowed at the site level as a necessary option. While schoolwide flexibility was already introduced in schoolwide schools in previous years, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) expands it in Targeted Assistance schools as well.

Although the supplement-not-supplant rule has not been removed, it has a different connotation these days. To demonstrate compliance with the supplement not supplant rule, schools do not have to demonstrate that individual costs are supplemental, but the LEA is only required to demonstrate that “the methodology used to allocate State and local funds to each school receiving assistance under this part ensures that such school receives all of the State and local funds it would otherwise receive if it were not receiving assistance under this part.” [ESSA, Sec.1118(b)(2)]

This rule indicates that all schools (schoolwide and targeted assistance) receiving Title I funding may apply this flexibility. However, in a Targeted Assistance school, only personnel working with, or materials/services for students selected as eligible to receive Title I funds will fall under this flexibility. Eligible students will be those identified by the school as failing, or most at risk of failing to meet the State academic standards.

Even under ESSA, Comparability and Maintenance of Effort are the requirements that still have to be met.

“A local educational agency may receive funds under this part only if State and local funds will be used in schools served under this part to provide services that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services in schools that are not receiving funds under this part. [ESSA, Sec. 1118(c)(1)(A)]

“A local educational agency may receive funds under this part for any fiscal year only if the State educational agency involved finds that the local educational agency has maintained the agency’s fiscal effort in accordance with section 8521” [ESSA, Sec. 1118(a)]

Those schools wrapping-up the schoolwide planning year 2015-2016 will have to submit the Schoolwide plan in Grants Management System (GMS), by May 2, 2016 for approval. After approval, schools may start operating a schoolwide program on July 1, 2016.

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Those schools that would like to become schoolwide schools in 2017-2018 will have to submit their intent in June 2016 through the Comprehensive District Academic Plan (CDAP) in GMS, and go through the one year of planning. This intent is found under the "Schoolwide Intent" tab in the FY17 CDAP.

ESSA brings a couple of new things in regard to the schoolwide program.

1. *"A school that serves an eligible school attendance area in which less than 40 percent of the children are from low-income families, or a school for which less than 40 percent of the children enrolled in the school are from such families, may operate a schoolwide program under this section if the school receives a waiver from the State educational agency to do so, after taking into account how a schoolwide program will best serve the needs of the students in the school served under this part in improving academic achievement and other factors."* [ESSA, Sec.1114(a)(1)(B)]

This means that the Office of Federal Programs at the Oklahoma State Department of Education may grant a waiver to schools that would like to go schoolwide, even though the poverty level is under 40 percent. This intent is found under the "Schoolwide Intent" tab in the FY17 CDAP. A Schoolwide plan is required to be developed and submitted to the Office of Federal Programs, in order for the school to operate the schoolwide program.

2. *"An eligible school operating a schoolwide program shall develop a comprehensive plan (or amend a plan for such a program that was in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act) that—*
 - (1) *is developed during a 1-year period, unless—*
 - (A) *the local educational agency determines, in consultation with the school, that less time is needed to develop and implement the schoolwide program; or*
 - (B) *the school is operating a schoolwide program on the day before the date of the enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act, in which case such school may continue to operate such program, but shall develop amendments to its existing plan during the first year of assistance after that date to reflect the provisions of this section;"* [ESSA, Sec.1114 (b)(1)(A)-(B)]

This means that schoolwide plans are to be developed during a 1-year period, in consultation and collaboration with teachers, parents, and community members. Due to the complexity of the process and the amount of work and data involved, this method is strongly recommended. However, this planning may be shortened by the LEA in consultation with the school. The Schoolwide plan is still required to be developed and submitted to the Office of Federal Programs, in order for the school to operate the schoolwide program.

FEDERAL Q & A

Q. An LEA has several Title I schools that used state grant funds in the past years to purchase a web-based program, but the grant funds are no longer available. If the schools purchase this program with Title I funds in the upcoming school year, will this be considered supplanting?

A. According to ESSA, Sec.1118(b)(2), to demonstrate compliance with the supplement not supplant rule, schools do not have to demonstrate that individual costs are supplemental, but the LEA is only required to allocate to these schools the same amount of state and local funds that would have been allocated in the absence of federal funds. Therefore, the above example is not considered supplanting. However, be aware that, in Targeted Assistance schools, only selected Title I students are allowed to use this program.

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