



FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER • 2015



Understanding Consolidation of Funds in a Schoolwide Site

Consolidated schoolwide (SW) programs are authorized under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) as an alternative means to better serve all children in a school by **intentionally** coordinating instructional programs and consolidating financial resources rather than operating categorical programs as separate services.

The purpose of consolidating funds is to help a SW program school effectively design and implement a comprehensive plan to upgrade the entire educational program in the school based on the school's needs that are identified through the comprehensive needs assessment.

In order to consolidate funds at a Title I site, the school must have a minimum of 40% poverty and be operating a schoolwide program.

Each school operating a SW program must receive all the State and local funds it would otherwise receive to operate its basic educational program in the absence of Title I, Part A or other Federal education funds. This includes funds needed to provide services that are required by law for children with disabilities and children with limited English proficiency. It is the district's responsibility to insure the schoolwide school receives all the State and local funds it would receive if it were not a schoolwide school and that State and local funds are distributed fairly and equitably to all schools in the district, including schoolwide schools [ESEA 1114(a)(2)(B).

The key to an effective schoolwide school participating in the consolidation of funds allows a broader and flexible focus on schoolwide reform and aligning the comprehensive needs assessment.

Schoolwide schools **must** meet specific requirements such as, scheduling an Annual Title I, Part A parent meeting, continue to have parent engagement/activities throughout the school year, maintain record keeping for agendas, sign-in sheets, procurement bids,

CALENDAR

September

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th - FY2016 Consolidated Application Training Francis Tuttle, Rockford Campus – Eventbrite registration required
- 9th Private Schools Webinar - [10:00-11:00 AM]
- 15th SWS Videoconference - [1:30-3:30 PM]
- 16th N&D Webinar [10:00-11:00 AM]
- 23rd Claims Webinar [10:00-11:00 AM]
- 23rd Parental Involvement Webinar [1:30-2:30 PM]

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Q. How does a schoolwide school know when participating in the consolidation of funds if what the school is implementing is supplementary?

A. As long as you maintain adequate State/local funds in the school to fund the basic instructional program, and the State/local funds are distributed equitably among all schools, everything above that is supplementary.

Schoolwide Flexibility

The common denominator for both *Schoolwide Flexibility and Consolidation of Funds* for any school site to participate in using Title I, Part A funds, the school **must** operate a schoolwide program. A schoolwide program allows for all children attending the school to receive the benefits of Title I, Part A funds.

A Title I, Part A schoolwide site, has the flexibility to use **only** Title I, Part A funds for “educational” purposes that are well documented within the schoolwide comprehensive plan. The school’s **needs assessment** drives the **comprehensive plan**, which describes the use of funds by addressing the needs of all students, especially, the low-achieving students.

Title I, Part A funds in a schoolwide school program are not subject to the three supplement not supplant presumptions for expenditures of federal funds.

- Prohibit the use of funds for services required by state or local law
- Services supported with non-Title I, Part A funds in prior years
- Services provided to non-Title I students with non-Title I funds

Schoolwide Flexibility provides schoolwide schools to leverage their resources for educational purposes which is driven by the **needs assessment** and **written specifically in the comprehensive schoolwide plan**.

Understanding Consolidation

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contracts, invoices, etc., meet district required set-asides, Title I, Part A comparability, maintenance of effort, health and safety and Civil Rights. It is important to note that final expenditure reports must align to budgets and expenditures.

As schoolwide schools begin to plan for consolidating funds, the emphasis will gravitate from providing a description of the budget, but will mirror a thoughtful and decisive schoolwide school plan to meet the needs of students. The educational story, programmatic and fiscal, is embedded in the schoolwide plan.

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