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Equitable Services for Participating Federal Programs

November of this year, the Office of Federal Programs will be releasing the FY 22 Nonpublic Equitable Services packet. The Local Educational Agency (LEA) should contact and invite the nonpublic school officials to inquire as to their interest in having students, teachers and parent participation for FY 2021-2022. LEAs are required under
Nonpublic School Carryover

In general, to ensure that equitable services are provided in a timely manner, an LEA must obligate the funds allocated for equitable services under all applicable programs in the year for which they are appropriated. [ESSA Sections 1117(a)(4)(B) and 8501(a)(4)(B)]. There may be extenuating circumstances, however, in which an LEA is unable to obligate all funds within this time frame in a responsible manner. Under these extenuating circumstances, the funds may remain available for the provision of equitable services under the respective program(s) during the subsequent school year. In determining how such carryover funds will be used, the LEA must consult with appropriate nonpublic school officials. [Elementary and Secondary Education Act Sections (ESEA) 1117(b) and 8501(c)].

- **Title IA** - If there were no extenuating circumstances, carryover would go to the Nonpublic share of funds.
- **Title IC, Title IIA, Title IIIA, Title IVA** - If there were no extenuating circumstances, carryover would go to the LEA share of funds.
- **In both**, if there were extenuating circumstances, the carryover would go back to the nonpublic school that the carryover initially came from.

Please feel free to contact the Nonpublic School Ombudsman, Naomi Ward, (405)-522-3218, with any questions or concerns.

Nonpublic School Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What program(s) can nonpublic schools participate in?**

   The nonpublic school has the opportunity to participate in the following programs through the Office of Federal Program:

   a. **Title I, Part A** - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

   b. **Title I, Part C** - Education of Migratory Children
c. Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals and Other School Leaders

d. Title III, Part A - Language Instruction for English Learner and Immigrant Students

e. Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment

f. Title IV, Part B - 21st Century Community Learning Centers

2. What is consultation?

Consultation between LEAs and nonpublic school officials should be timely, meaningful and continue throughout the school year. Open discussion should be conducted between the LEA and the nonpublic school official involving key issues that affect the ability of eligible nonpublic school students to participate in receiving equitable services. Successful consultation should establish a positive and productive working relationship and ensure that services are provided to nonpublic school students effectively and meets the needs of the students and teachers. Final decisions should be made by the LEA after discussing key issues relating to the provision of services.

Nonpublic School officials should provide the LEA with list of addresses and grades of low-income families (if participating in Title I), program ideas and suggestions, etc.

It is the responsibility of the LEA to reach out to nonpublic school officials and initiate the consultation process.

3. How do I register my nonpublic school with the Oklahoma State Department of Education?

In order to register with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and to obtain a ‘Nonpublic School County Code’, the nonpublic school would need to contact the Ombudsman in the Office of Federal Programs. The Ombudsman will collect information and submit the request for registration. Once a nonpublic school county code has been assigned and the nonpublic school is registered, the Ombudsman will contact the nonpublic school and provide the nonpublic school county code.

National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The 2019-2020 National Blue Ribbon awarded schools were publicly announced last month, with six Oklahoma schools named as recipients. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools
based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the United States Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years. The coveted National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The United States Education Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

2019-2020 Oklahoma National Blue Ribbon School Winners

- Frederick Elementary School – Frederick Public Schools
- Freedom Elementary School – Sapulpa Public Schools
- John Rex Charter School – John Rex Charter
- McKinley Elementary School – Norman Public Schools
- Muldrow Middle School – Muldrow Public Schools
- Wayside Elementary School – Bartlesville Public Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the criteria for being nominated for the Blue Ribbon award?**

   The United States Department of Education recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores, and graduation rates:

   - **Exemplary High Performing Schools** – These are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
   - **Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools** – These are among their state’s highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

2. **What specific categories were the awarded Oklahoma schools nominated in?**
• High Performing Schools
  • Frederick Elementary
  • Freedom Elementary
  • John Rex Charter
• Achievement Gap Closing Schools
  • McKinley Elementary
  • Muldrow Middle School
  • Wayside Elementary

3. When does the nomination process take place each year?

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program releases the nomination criteria, including any updates, each year around the September/October timeframe. States then have until December to determine which of its schools meet the criteria and make formal nominations. Between January and September of the following year, nominated schools complete an application, verify they maintain eligibility based on end-of-year test scores and are then publicly recognized by the United States Department of Education.