

# TITLE IV, PART A – EQUITABLE SERVICES

## Guidance and FAQs

The Student Support and Academic Enrichment Project, Title IV, Part A, is intended to improve student academic achievement by increasing the state and local educational agencies capacity in the areas of student access to a well-rounded education, safe and healthy students and school conditions and the effective use of technology and digital literacy for all students.

Many LEAs are familiar with the equitable service requirement for other programs such as Title I Parts A and C, Title II Part A, and Title III Part A. Equitable services is also a requirement of Title IV, Part A under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Success Act (ESSA). Sections 1117 and 8501, ESEA, require local education agencies (LEAs) to provide eligible private school students, their teachers, and their families with services that are equitable to those services provided to eligible public school students, their teachers, and their families. This does not necessarily mean services must be identical to those provided in the public school setting, but these must be equitable.

### CONSULTATION

Consultation is a meaningful, ongoing discussion between LEAs and private school administrators. It should begin during the project development and continue throughout the project. Consultation should provide ample time and genuine opportunity for all parties to:

- express their views,
- have their views seriously considered, and
- discuss viable options for ensuring equitable participation.

It is important to note that consultations are more than a certified letter or a meeting. Follow up to consultation requests should take place in the form of phone calls, mail, and e-mails. It is important that these efforts are well documented. Consultations should continue to occur frequently throughout the year.

### WRITTEN AFFIRMATION

LEAs are required to obtain written affirmation from private school administrators that states timely and meaningful consultation occurred. Please note, LEAs must also provide the option for private school administrators to indicate that timely and meaningful consultation did not occur or that the program design is not equitable.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING FORMULAS

While LEAs are required to provide equitable services for private schools, they are not required to provide services in the form of direct funds. Title IV Part A does not have a set funding formula for the equitable services. Also, there is no required number of programs or trainings LEAs must offer to private schools. Options for funding and programming include:

- LEAs may choose to distribute funds to private schools based on calculation methods used for other Title programs.



- LEAs may provide a list of their Title IV Part A programs and trainings to private schools and encourage participation.
- LEAs may ask how they can best serve private schools (should be based on the private schools' needs assessment) and consider reasonable requests from their private schools.

LEAs should extend sincere offers to partner with their local private schools. Private schools should expect and respond to invitations from their LEAs. Working together, LEAs and private schools can form meaningful partnerships that will help improve student academic achievement under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Project.

## WHAT ARE SOME LEAS DOING?

Hold at least two face-to-face consultation meetings per year with private school partners. They discuss priority focus areas and each side provides their input on activities they want to see included. Also appoint one person as the point of contact for private schools. This improves private school administrators and LEAs communication and provides a direct avenue for asking questions, seeking clarification, and discussing emerging needs moving forward.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Can you explain Equitable Services for private schools?

- a. Section 8501(a)(4) of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA, requires that expenditures for services to private school students, teachers, and other educational personnel be equal to the expenditures for the public school program, taking into account the number and educational needs of the children to be served.
- b. Many LEAs calculate equal expenditures strictly on the basis of the relative enrollments of public and private school students, on the assumption that these numbers also accurately reflect the relative needs of students and teachers in public and private schools. However, it is permissible for LEAs to use other factors relating to need and not base equal expenditures only on relative enrollments.
- c. As with other decisions affecting services to private school students, LEAs should consult with private school administrators on the method for determining equal expenditures, and the resulting methodology should reasonably reflect the relative numbers and educational needs of the public and private school students.
- d. The non-regulatory guidance does not provide a formula, but there is guidance about how to calculate it. Please consult the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services Requirements Under the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA, available [here](#).
- e. The non-regulatory guidance document "Title IX, Part E Uniform Provisions, Subpart 1— Private Schools" , available [here](#), and remains applicable except as otherwise provided in the ESSA Fiscal Non-Regulatory Guidance.



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### 2. How do I calculate the allocation for private schools?

- a. There is not a calculation. Under Title IV, Part A, LEAs must provide for the equitable participation of private school students, teachers and other educational personnel in private schools. LEAs should consult and collaborate with the private schools in their area.

### 3. Is there Federal guidance for equitable services?

Yes. The US Department of Education has published the following resources:

- a. <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaguidance160477.pdf>
- b. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/equitableserviceguidance.doc>

### 4. Is there additional state guidance on equitable services for Title programs?

- a. Yes. You may also visit the Private Schools Equitable Services page, [www.fldoe.org/finance/equitable-services/](http://www.fldoe.org/finance/equitable-services/). For additional Title IV, Part A equitable service guidance, you may also review the following webinars below.
  - i. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4607689684330999809>
  - ii. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9076975752023888898>

### 5. What should LEAs discuss with private schools during a consultation?

- a. Per Section 8501(c), ESEA, as amended by ESSA, consultation topics must include:
  - How the amount of funds available for equitable services is determined.
  - Whether the agency, consortium, or entity responsible for providing equitable services will provide those services directly or through a separate government agency, consortium, or entity, or through a third-party contractor.
  - Whether to provide equitable services to eligible private school participants (1) by creating a pool or pools of funds with all of the funds allocated under programs covered under Section 8501(b) or (2) on a school-by-school basis based on each the proportionate share of funds available to provide services in each school.
  - How LEAs will identify the needs of eligible private school children;
  - What services will LEAs offer and how, where, when and by whom will those be provided;
  - The size and scope of the equitable services;
  - How will the LEAs academically assess services and how will those results be used to improve services;
  - How LEAs will provide notice, analysis and reasons to the private school administrators if LEAs disagree with private school administrators regarding provision of equitable services;



- Whether to consolidate and use Title I Part A funds in coordination with funds from other eligible programs that are dedicated to providing equitable services to private school students.

**6. Who should private schools or LEAs contact with a complaint?**

- a. All efforts should be made to resolve conflicts at the local level. Both LEAs and private schools may reach out to the Title IV, Part A office with questions and concerns. If a conflict persists, the Florida Equitable Services Ombudsman, Nicolle Tanner, should be contacted at [Nicolle.Tanner@fldoe.org](mailto:Nicolle.Tanner@fldoe.org).

**7. What if a private school does not respond?**

- a. Continued efforts should be made to contact and partnership with private schools within the LEA service area. LEAs should continue contact attempts and maintain documentation of those attempts.

**8. Additional questions as needed**

