



Top 10 Questions

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10. How can nonpublic and public schools build better relationships?

- **New under ESSA**, the goal of all parties should be to reach an effective agreement on how to provide equitable and effective programs for eligible nonpublic school children.
- Districts must provide “timely and meaningful” consultation with appropriate nonpublic school officials; including ongoing consultation with specific goals in mind.



9. What happens if the district disagrees with the views of the nonpublic?

- **New under ESSA**, if the district disagrees with the views of the nonpublic school official with respect to any topic subject to consultation, the district must provide in writing to such nonpublic school official the reason why the district disagrees.
- The final decision rests with the district.



8. What is the role of the State Ombudsman?

- **New under ESSA**, the ombudsman's role is to help ensure equity, to monitor and enforce the requirements under the law.
- ISBE hopes to be announcing the appointment of an Ombudsman soon.
- We are looking for someone who is:
 - **Knowledgeable:** Has sufficient experience and demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding regarding the equitable services provisions, including the statute, regulations, and guidance, necessary to implement, monitor, and enforce the equitable services requirements under both Titles I and VIII?
 - **Impartial:** Will be able to carry out the ombudsman duties, including monitoring, enforcement, and resolving complaints, in a fair and impartial manner?



7. What types of services can Title I funds be used for in nonpublic schools?

- Services **MUST** benefit the students and **NOT** the nonpublic school.
- Under ESSA, some examples of services may include:
 - Instructional services (including evaluations to determine progress to meet academic need)
 - Counseling or mentoring
 - One-on-one tutoring
 - Other benefits under Title I (such as dual or concurrent enrollment, technology, equipment)
 - Parent Involvement
 - Professional Development



6. What types of activities can Title II funds be used for in nonpublic schools?

- The district can continue to provide professional development activities for teachers, principals, and other school leaders to address the specific needs of their students.
- Any use of Title II, Part A funds for the benefit of nonpublic school participants must:
 - Be an allowable local use of Title II, Part A funds. (ESEA §2103(b)(3))
 - Meet the specific needs of students enrolled in a nonpublic school, and not the school itself.
 - Title II, Part A funds may not be used to meet the needs of a nonpublic school or the general needs of the students enrolled in the nonpublic school.
 - Be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. (ESEA §8501(a)(2))



5. What does Reasonable and Necessary mean?

- The proposed activity addresses and assesses the specific needs and educational progress of eligible children on a basis comparable to public school children;
- The proposed activity meets the “equal expenditure” requirement or total funds equals total funds generated;
- The proposed activity provides nonpublic school students with an equitable opportunity to participate in services and provides reasonable promise in achieving the state’s standards or equivalent standards applicable to nonpublic school students.



4. What are the requirements for teachers or paraprofessionals working in a Title I classroom?

- **New under ESSA**, the State must ensure all teachers and paraprofessionals working in a Title I program meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements.
- DOES apply to: district teachers teaching nonpublic school students and district paraprofessionals.
- Does NOT apply to: nonpublic school teachers or third-party contractor teachers.



3. “Will the nonpublic schools receive more money under ESSA?”

Let’s remember that nonpublic schools do not receive money. Nonpublic schools have students and teachers that receive services.

But this question is complicated. We do not know how much the State is going to receive in total nor for any individual titles within ESSA at this time. That being said, there are some changes that will change the nonpublic allocations.

- Title I: New under ESSA, proportionate share must be calculated BEFORE any allowable expenditures and transfers by the district.
- Title II: New under ESSA, Title II, Part A services is based on the district’s total Title II, Part A allocation, less administrative costs.



2. How does carryover work under ESSA?

- **New under ESSA**, it states specifically that funds allocated for educational services and other benefits **shall** be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the agency.
- There may be extenuating circumstances, however, in which the district is unable to obligate all funds within this timeframe in a responsible manner.
- Under these circumstances, the funds may remain available for the provision of equitable services under the respective program during the subsequent school year.
- In determining how such carryover funds will be used, the district must consult with appropriate private school officials.



1. What does the future hold?

- **New under ESSA**, there is greater flexibility for the State and for school districts.
- Title I funds can be spent on activities beyond reading and math as long as they can be linked to raising student achievement.
- Funding for FY17 (2017-18 SY) is under continuing resolution through the end of April.
 - Likely flat funded for Title IA and Title IIA
 - Unknown status for IVA
- Funding for FY18 (2018-19 SY) is very uncertain now.
 - The President's budget would eliminate Title II and IVB and probably not fund IVA.
 - In its place would be an almost 2.5 billion in choice programs, although there are no details on how they would be administered.