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ESSA State Plan: Recommendation Form

Development Cycle No: 4	Decision Point No(s): 28	Author: Mary Mulloy/Jennifer Gresham
Date submitted: 29 June 2016		Bounce Team Coordinating: CFP
ESSA Citation: 4001		ESSA Page Number: 214 Link to ESSA
Question(s) being considered: What is the best use of the state set aside for Title IV, A grants?		
What ESSA requirements need to be met?: How to use Title IV, part A state withholdings		
Solution being proposed (in bullet point format): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision previously made to include the funds to LEAs in the consolidated federal grants application in order to ease application for LEAs and to encourage LEAs to utilize funds as part of their continuous improvement initiatives. Use the state portion of the grant to hire a full-time employee to monitor and provide technical assistance to LEAs receiving Title IV, A money through the formula grant. VTAOE will institute an in-house advisory group of Agency staff whose work intersects with TIV, A. When grant funds are available, inform LEAs that the Agency would entertain Ed-Flex waiver requests to grant the flexibility given to LEAs that receive less than \$30,000 to LEAs that receive allocations of \$50,000 or less (if the State retains Ed-Flex authority approval in the State Plan). 		
Rationale: Explain why your proposal supports each decision logic element below: <i>Equity:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the projected allocation for Vermont, it points at an estimated \$120,000 as the SEA portion of the money for admin and supporting LEA use of grant funds. If these funds were to be shared among multiple SEA level projects, it is unlikely that any of the projects would receive sufficient funding to have a substantial impact and the money would have limited effect on student outcomes. If the funds would be consolidated to support a 1.0 FTE charged with overseeing the grants to LEAs and coordinating state level activities, there would be more coordination of purpose leading to student needs being best met. <i>Alignment with current VT policy and practice:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a single point person ensures that there is consistency in which uses of the money are encouraged at the local level and allows a focus on priorities that are consistent with those outlined in EQS and found in need of support through the IFR. <i>Efficiency (streamlining processes, eliminating duplicative systems or requirements):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is limited capacity within the CFP team to take on the additional work of monitoring and supporting work under the Title IV, A grant. As opposed to many hands trying to guide the work with redundancies occurring, using the money to support a single position would be the most efficient use of the funds. The complexities associated with Title IV, A requirements and LEA size and capacity require an individual who can focus specifically on this work and LEA capacity building. Including the formula grant in Grantium and including Title IV, A in joint reviews allows for even more alignment for LEA funding. <i>Possibility (implementation feasibility for the AOE and impacted stakeholders):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the funds to support a 1.0 FTE is also the most straightforward and pragmatic solution. There is a lack of capacity within CFP to monitor the Title IV, A program and creating this position would allow for a dedicated staff member to give proper oversight to the work and provide LEAs with high quality technical assistance. 		
Identify any known or potential risks associated with your proposed solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known: There are trade-offs in using the funds to support a position. There are multiple potential projects that individuals at the state considered by tapping these funds. Using the funds in this way would not allow those projects to be pursued. Potential: There is a chance that the decision could be viewed as unpopular within the agency, as funds that some assumed to be potentially available would not be. 		
What are the expected benefits associated with your proposed solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated management and support for the Title IV, A funds state-wide and increased capacity to provide directed support to LEAs in the areas that are consistent with state needs. Increased communication and coordination within AOE as the Title IV, A coordinator communicates with multiple people cross-teams. 		
Secretary's Decision		Date: 7/22/16 Initials:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confirm recommendation of ESSA State Plan Management Team <input type="checkbox"/> Reject recommendation of ESSA State Plan Management Team and offer the following as an alternative:		