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ESSA State Plan: Recommendation Form

Development Cycle No:	Decision Point No(s): 39	Author: Jen Gresham
Date submitted: 8/19/16		Bounce Team Coordinating: CFP
ESSA Citation: Sec. 117(a)(3)(B); 8501(a)(3)(B)		ESSA Page Number: 80, 420 - Link to ESSA
Question(s) being considered: How does AOE take on the Ombudsman monitoring/compliance for an AOE-wide position that has no funding associated with it?		
What ESSA requirements need to be met?: By summer 2017, SEA must appoint an Ombudsman to monitor equitable services to independent schools across Titles I, II, III and IV (if funded).		
Solution being proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Ombudsman is appointed from current AOE staff to coordinate efforts for all programs (Title I, Title IIA, Title IIIA, and Title IV A&B). • The Ombudsman will be selected from current CFP team staff (Consultant level or higher) and overseen in this work by the Assistant Division Director. • Ombudsman will ensure each AOE Title Coordinator is providing equitable services as outlined under their respective Titles under ESEA. • Title Coordinators will continue to monitor their own equitable services and develop provisions for equitable services in the event of an LEA/independent school dispute. • Ombudsman will assist the Title Coordinators with the execution of disputes/appeals/service provisions as necessary, up to and including RFP and contract administration. • Dispute and appeal resolution will be assisted by legal counsel with an across Title dispute process developed in correlation with this recommendation. 		
Rationale: Explain why your proposal supports each decision logic element below: <i>Equity:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ombudsman will ensure that students at independent schools throughout Vermont are receiving equitable services to those received at public schools in relation to Titles I, IIA, IIIA and IV. <i>Alignment with current VT policy and practice:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently VT adheres to federal legislation that requires provision of equitable services under these Titles. The addition of an ombudsman places coordination of statewide information into a single location. <i>Efficiency (streamlining processes, eliminating duplicative systems or requirements):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By having a single coordinator for this information, yet allowing each of the Title Coordinators to continue to maintain their practices. <i>Possibility (implementation feasibility for the AOE and impacted stakeholders):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As equitable services are already being monitored, implementing that aspect is very possible. • Due to the lack of funds to support a new position, the selection of the ombudsman should include someone who already works with that information. 		
Identify any known or potential risks associated with your proposed solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funds are associated with this new set of responsibilities so whichever individual takes this on will need to have a working knowledge of all of the Titles and equitable services yet have time to coordinate with the Title staff across AOE. 		
What are the expected benefits associated with your proposed solution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the bulk of the work with the people already doing it reduces the work load and learning curve on the appointed Ombudsman. • Maintaining a coordinated record set in one location will assist in federal monitoring as needed. 		
Secretary's Decision <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:		Date: 9/6/16 Initials: