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ESSA State Plan: Recommendation Form

Development Cycle No: 6	Decision Point No(s): 49	Author: Sean Cousino and Bill Talbott
Date submitted: 10/28/16		Bounce Team Coordinating: NA
ESSA Citation: §1111(h)(1)(C)(x) and section 1111(h)(2)(C)		ESSA Page Number: 51 - Link to ESSA
Question(s) being considered:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will Vermont collect per-pupil expenditure data across state and federal funding sources? • How will Vermont disaggregate per-pupil expenditures by funding source? 		
What ESSA requirements need to be met? ESSA requires states to collect LEA and school per-pupil expenditures by funding source.		
Solution being proposed:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont is currently developing a financial management system for LEAs consisting of a uniform chart of accounts and financial data reporting/collection system, for use by all LEAs. The project was started in 2014, in response to Vermont’s Act 153 of 2010 and by state law is required to be completed by July 1, 2019. This timeline is intended to allow the state and its LEAs time to develop and implement the new system. • Vermont will take advantage of ESSA’s statutory provision for a one-year extension of the deadline associated with establishing this data management system, and will use that time to continue developing the financial management system. 		
Rationale: Explain why your proposal supports each decision logic element below:		
<i>Equity:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the financial management system is to standardize the process for collecting and disaggregating this data. 		
<i>Alignment with current VT policy and practice:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont’s approach to satisfying this ESSA requirement also addresses a similar state-level requirement. • The merger activity required by the State’s Act 46 will mean many districts will no longer exist once they are consolidated into a new, larger district. The new district will not have per pupil expenditures to report until it begins operating. There is usually a one year transition for the former district to dissolve and the new district to be fully operational; in addition to the one-year extension giving Vermont additional time to finalize its financial management system for LEAs, it will give Vermont time to respond to districts consolidating under Act 46. Note: merger activity under Act 46 may continue through 2020. 		
<i>Efficiency (streamlining processes, eliminating duplicative systems or requirements):</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This solution will create no duplicative processes or systems. 		
<i>Possibility (implementation feasibility for the AOE and impacted stakeholders):</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This solution enables us to align with existing work on the state-required financial management system to minimize new work. 		
What are the expected benefits associated with your proposed solution:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new financial management system will support more consistent collecting and reporting of data. Currently, most district accounting systems cannot manage this and there is little consistency in the way LEAs track expenditures. It also gives us time to work through challenges in our SUs related to allocating supervisory expenditures at LEAs back to individual schools. • The financial management system will save the AOE and district staff time re-working current data sets. • The financial management system should yield more consistent data, once implemented. 		
Secretary’s Decision Date: 11/30/16 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:		