

Item #1: Revision of Consolidated Federal Program Application Review Process

Proposed Policy: In reviewing Consolidated Federal Program (CFP) applications, the Agency of Education will expand beyond the historical approach that has focused on specific Title requirements. In addition, the Agency will also review from the perspective of alignment with school improvement goals. The purpose of this approach is to ensure that Title funds are being used as efficiently and effectively as possible toward the goal of improving student achievement.

This will take the form of a collaborative review process involving both CFP staff and School Effectiveness staff. The latter have primary responsibility for working with school and district leadership teams in the context of NCLB compliance and the goal of continuous improvement. Their knowledge of school and district improvement plans will be considered as they participate in the review of CFP applications from assigned schools.

Specifically, CFP staff will pose the following questions:

- Does the proposed investment meet the intent of the Title?
- Is the proposed investment reasonable and necessary?
- Is the proposed expenditure allowable under applicable Title rules?

Specifically, School Effectiveness staff will pose the following questions:

- Does the proposed investment have the potential to improve teaching?
- Does the proposed investment have the potential to improve student achievement?
- Does the proposed investment have the potential to improve student achievement in a content area for which the applicant has been identified?
- Does the proposed investment reflect the goals of the applicant's continuous improvement plan?

Following the independent reviews described above, a collaborative review team will meet that will at a minimum consist of a Title I representative, a Title IIA representative, the CFP Grant Manager, and the assigned School Effectiveness Coordinator. The review conducted by this team will be intended to integrate the conclusions of the independent reviews and assure that both regulatory compliance and continuous improvement have been considered. The result of this review will be conveyed in a letter to the applicant which may express approval or may request revisions to the application.

Rationale: The collaborative review process will enable the Agency to insure that Title funds are being used as efficiently and effectively as possible toward the goal of improving student achievement through continuous improvement of schools.

Impact: The CFP application will be open much earlier than in previous years and LEAs will be able to work on their plan earlier. For the initial year, a considerable amount of training will be provided to LEAs to help with the transition. The addition feedback on the applications should help LEAs and schools better align their Title expenditures with their school improvement goals.

Implementation Plan:

The timeline for application submission and review is as follows.

- FY15 CFP application process will begin on March 24, 2014.
- FY15 CFP applications will be received no later than May 2, 2014.
- FY15 CFP application review process will be completed by June 30, 2014.
- FY15 CFP application approval decisions will be made and conveyed by July 1, 2014.

Resulting Action: The review process was approved by the COP and implemented according to the Implementation Plan above.