

Supporting Student Outcomes Using ESEA Funds

Overview of the 2016-17 Consolidated Application

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds are intended to provide access to high quality educational opportunities for all students. Local education agencies (LEAs) must submit an application to the State educational agency, specifically, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to access ESEA funds. CDE has been updating its Consolidated Application in preparation for implementing the most recent reauthorization of ESEA, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Consolidated Application Design

Overview

The Consolidated Application is the LEA's plan to the CDE, to use federal Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; and Title VI, Part B funds. Through the online application, applicants describe how funds are used to provide all children a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.

Transitioning from NCLB to ESSA

The 2016-2017 funding year is a "bridge" year between No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and ESSA requirements for the release of federal funds in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. In anticipation of the move to the new law, the Consolidated Application has been updated to a new online platform designed to reduce administrative burden and increase flexibility during this transition year. The new platform features include but are not limited to a modular design that customizes each application to fit the needs of the LEA, allows for data integration, incorporates program and budget information into one platform, saves and allows reuse of strategies, and pre-populates strategies for optional use in the budget.

For the 2017-2018 school year, LEAs will use the new online platform to submit their comprehensive plan based on the requirements described under ESSA. CDE continues to work with stakeholders to improve the quality and efficiency of the online application and welcomes feedback from the 2016-2017 application users.

Online Application Features

- Modular design for additional flexibility
- Data integration
- One platform that allows for program and budget information to be entered all at once
- Pre-populated strategies for optional use in the budget
- Activity descriptions that are saved in the system's memory bank for use across all programs
- Ongoing technical assistance and access from staff for all modules

Where can I learn more?

- Federal Programs website: www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms
- Consolidated application website: www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/consapp/index.asp
- Contact information:
 - Brad Bylsma: bylsma_b@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-6937
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs