

Private School Guidance

July 2010

Title II, Part A of NCLB law requires LEAs to provide equitable professional development services for private school teachers, principals, and other educational personnel to the extent that it uses funds to provide professional development.

Participation is considered to be equitable if the public and private educational agencies and institutions:

- (1) Assess, address, and evaluate the needs and progress of both groups of teachers in the same way,
- (2) Provide approximately the same amount of training and instruction to teachers with similar needs,
- (3) Spend an equal amount of funds per student to serve public and private school teachers, and
- (4) Provide private school teachers with an opportunity to participate in Title II, Part A program activities equivalent to the opportunity provided public school teachers.

The LEA is required to solicit participation in professional development by private school personnel. Most LEAs send a letter to private/home school educators inviting participation, but go no further in their efforts to include those educators.

Guidance articulates that “LEAs must consult with appropriate private school officials during the design, development, and implementation of the professional development program on such issues as:

- how the needs of children and teachers will be identified;
- what services will be offered;
- how, where, and by whom the services will be provided;
- how the services will be assessed and how the results of the assessment will be used to improve those services;
- the size and scope of the equitable services;
- the amount of funds available for those services; and
- how and when the LEA will make decisions about the delivery of services.”

The LEA is responsible for the administration of Title II-A funds used for the equitable participation of private school educators in professional development; following solicitation and thorough consultation, the LEA, hopefully with complete agreement with the private school officials, makes the final decision regarding the appropriate and equitable use of II-A funds.

“To meet its general record-keeping responsibility, an LEA should document that:

- Representatives of private schools were informed of the availability of Title II, Part A services;
- The needs of private and public school teachers were identified as part of a district-wide needs assessment;
- Private school officials were consulted and provided an opportunity for input into the planning of the LEA’s program activities; and
- The LEA designed a project that would permit their equitable participation.”

Additional guidance is available in “Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Non-Regulatory Guidance”, Section G published on October 5, 2006.