



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2017-027

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Consolidated Grant Managers
Title I Coordinators
Special Education Directors
Personnel Directors
Career and Technical Education Coordinators
Carl D. Perkins Coordinators

FROM: Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

DATE: March 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Delayed Federal Program Allocations and Elimination of Title II-A Hold Harmless Amounts

DELAYED FEDERAL PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS AND ELIMINATION OF TITLE II-A HOLD HARMLESS AMOUNTS

Delayed Federal Program Preliminary Allocation Amounts for the 2017-18 Grant Award Year

The United States Department of Education (USDE) is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that runs through April 2017. This means that preliminary allocation amounts will be delayed for all federal education programs. The USDE's budget has not been established beyond that date to enable calculations or estimates of school year 2017-18 allocations. The USDE has shared the following:

“The Continuing Resolution will also result in the delay of the normal release of information on final appropriations levels for FY2017. For example, the Department typically would release preliminary FY 2017 allocations for State formula grant programs in February or March of 2017. This fiscal year, because the Department must wait for final appropriations action to publish preliminary allocations, we anticipate that this information will not be available until late spring or early summer of

2017, or just prior to the usual announcement of final allocations on July 1.”

Based on this information, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) anticipates being able to get allocation amounts to districts prior to July 1, 2017. The WDE recognizes that the delay may cause some planning concerns for districts in regard to staffing decisions. The WDE is working to get this information to districts as soon as it is made available to federal program managers.

Elimination of Hold Harmless in Title II-A Allocations

In addition, the 2017-18 school year will be the first year under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) where Title II-A allocations for school districts will be calculated without the Hold Harmless amounts that were required under No Child Left Behind. The Title II-A allocation formula under ESSA determines district awards based only on the following:

- 20% of the award is based on the state’s number of 5-17 year olds (population level)
- 80% of the award is based on state’s number of low-income 5-17 year olds (poverty level)

Hold Harmless under No Child Left Behind was an allocation component that guaranteed school districts at least as much money as they received in 2001 for Title II-A. Under ESSA, this formula component is eliminated. The elimination of Hold Harmless will likely affect every district with potential increases and decreases, and can have a significant impact. The WDE encourages districts receiving increases to partner with neighboring districts receiving significant decreases to combine efforts in providing professional development opportunities. Please see the attachment titled “Potential District Activities ESSA Title II-A” to review allowable uses of Title II-A funds.

To understand how the elimination of Hold Harmless could impact your district and neighboring districts, and to identify ways to address items identified in your needs assessments for use of federal funds, see the attached example document. It compares the current allocation formula (with Hold Harmless) with the new ESSA allocation formula (without Hold Harmless), utilizing the current year’s allocation amounts. This is an example comparison, as the WDE does not yet know funding allocations for the 2017-18 school year.

For questions, contact the Consolidated Grants/Grant Management System Supervisor, Jess Binning, at 307-777-6208 or jess.binning@wyo.gov, or Title II Director, Mark Bowers, at 307-777-8739 or mark.bowers@wyo.gov.

Attachments:

Title II-A Hold Harmless Comparison

Potential District Activities ESSA Title II-A