



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Statewide Initial Consultation Meetings for Equitable Services FAQs

Contact- Shaun Owen (ombudsman@doe.k12.ga.us 404-971-0096)
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Click on the link (<https://form.jotform.com/82143606529962>) to register for the Statewide Initial Consultation Meetings for Equitable Services. See below for additional details:

1. What is the purpose of the Statewide Initial Consultation Meetings for Equitable Services?

The statewide meetings are held to explain the Equitable Services provided by districts to private schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Title IA and Title VIII (IC, IIA, IIIA, IVA, and IVB) will be discussed. These meetings are held by each LEA in Georgia once a year, usually in October (and are typically called the Initial Consultation or Invitation to Consult Meeting). The purpose of holding statewide meetings is to standardize the information, create consistency, discuss the new online platform, address Equitable Services via a collaborative approach between the GaDOE, LEAs and private schools, and reduce the meetings private schools that work with multiple districts (some as many as 12) need to attend. The second part of the day is optional and is designed to offer technical assistance/professional learning regarding Equitable Services.

2. If I am an LEA/district representative, do I need to send out the invitations to private schools?

Yes. The LEA is responsible for reaching out to all eligible private schools within or outside of their district and the state (for Title IA). The process for reaching out and retaining documentation has not changed and is the responsibility of the LEA/district. Remember, it is no longer a requirement to send invitations via certified mail; however, please retain documentation of how you reached out to private schools and make every effort to reach all private schools that are eligible for Equitable Services.

3. If I am a private school, am I obligated to attend one of the meetings?

No. Private schools are not obligated to participate in the meetings nor to participate in Equitable Services. However, if you are planning to participate in Equitable Services for the 2019-2020 school year, you are highly encouraged to attend.

4. If I am a private school, can I be a for-profit school and still participate in Equitable Services (Title IA and VIII)?

No. Private schools must provide proof of non-profit status to participate in Equitable Services (Title IA and VIII).

5. If I am an LEA/district representative, do I need to attend the meeting(s) that private schools that are eligible for Equitable Services through my district attend?

Yes. A representative from your LEA/district needs to be available to answer questions and should provide any contact/program specific information. Also, for this to count as the districts Initial/Interest meeting, a



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representative will need to participate in the meeting (first part only from 9-12), and are welcome to remain for the second part of the day for the technical assistance/professional learning regarding Equitable Services.

6. If I am an LEA/district representative, how will I know if I have any private schools participating in the meetings?

Contact Shaun Owen (ombudsman@doe.k12.ga.us) for registration information.

7. If I am an LEA/district representative and one or more of the private schools that I work with cannot attend the meeting, what should I do?

Each LEA/district should have a back-up plan to provide all necessary information to interested private schools. You can contact Shaun Owen if you have further questions.

8. If I am an LEA/district representative and I never have any participating private schools, am I required to hold the Initial Consultation Meeting each year?

Yes. LEAs/districts are required to reach out to private schools and hold an Initial Consultation Meeting each year. The Statewide Initial Consultation Meeting for Equitable Services will fulfill the LEA's requirement. However, see #7 above if an interested private school does not attend the Statewide Initial Consultation Meeting for Equitable Services.

9. If I am a state approved charter school LEA, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice or a State School, am I required to attend/hold the Initial Consultation each year?

No. Since you do not have clearly defined geographical boundaries, you are not held to the same requirements as the LEA/district regarding Equitable Services under Title IA and VIII.

10. Are the meetings the same across the state?

Yes, each meeting will provide the same information.

11. What time do the meetings start/end?

The first session, which meets the intent of the law, will be held from 9:00-12:00. The second session, which is optional, will be held from 1:00-4:00.

12. Will the meetings address Equitable Services under IDEA?

No. IDEA is a separate law. However, time will be provided for LEAs to meet with private schools to discuss IDEA.

13. If I have questions, what is the best way to get more information?

Call Shaun Owen (State Ombudsman) at 404-971-0096 or email her at ombudsman@doe.k12.ga.us.