**Requirement**

Section 427 of the United States Department of Education's General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requires each applicant for funds (other than an individual person) to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take in order to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally-assisted programs for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs.  Local education agencies (LEAs) or other eligible applicants that apply for federal funding through the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) application must provide this description in their application.  The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is responsible for ensuring that the LEA or other local entity has submitted a sufficient section 427 statement. For additional information, please see the [GaDOE Federal Programs Handbook](https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Federal-Programs-Handbook.aspx).

**Developing a Response**

GEPA allows applicants discretion in developing and describing the activities that are occurring to meet this requirement.  *The statute highlights six types of barriers that may impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age*. Based on local circumstances, LEAs should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent your students, teachers, etc. from such access or participation in the Federally-funded project or activity.

Response

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Superintendent’s Signature

**Submitting to GaDOE**

LEAs should complete this template, secure the superintendent’s signature, and load the document to the general attachments tab on the consolidated application by October 1.