



February 2, 2017

Dear LEA Federal Programs Directors and Program Contacts:

Please review these updates and announcements from the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE) Office of Federal Programs.

- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

- Georgia's ESSA plan is in development and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) in September 2017. GaDOE recognizes that the new administration may revise regulations and/or plan requirements. Rather than submitting in April, we want to make sure we know what additional flexibility may be offered by the new administration. Stakeholder consultation is ongoing and the plan will be available for public review prior to the submission date.
- Equitable Services Requirements Under ESSA:
 - ESSA requires each state to identify an Ombudsman to work with public and private schools to support service delivery. GaDOE's Ombudsman is Ms. Shaun Owen (sowen@doe.k12.ga.us).
 - Notifications of FY18 LEA set-asides/allocations for provision of equitable services to private schools will be made available to private schools from the Ombudsman's office.
 - The GaDOE will offer training to private school staff to support coordination of Federal programs service delivery with LEAs. The dates of these trainings for private school officials are March 21, April 17 (webinar), and April 18. The GaDOE is collaborating with the Georgia Independent School Association in the development and delivery of these trainings.
- Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants program is a new formula grant from US ED intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, LEAs, schools, and local communities to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. (ESEA section 4101). Georgia's projected preliminary allocation for FY18 is \$17,137,609.00 and LEA allocations will be approved by the State Board of Education sometime between July and September, 2017 depending on the date that Georgia receives its Grant Award Notice. Additional information on this program and allowable use of funds is available here: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/SSAE.aspx>

- **FY18 Consolidated Application and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)**

- Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement, as it is being defined in Georgia's ESSA State Plan, will be the driving force for all programs and divisions at the



GaDOE. Planning for FY18 will occur within this framework (see attached). More information will be available in the webinar series outlined below.

- The GaDOE is in the process of revising the CLIP for FY18. Currently, it is planned that the CLIP will include three foundational pieces:
 1. A single comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) report template that addresses all Federal program needs assessment requirements at the district level. The GaDOE will provide each LEA with a CNA tool (report template) that includes various data and demographic information pre-populated, when possible, with district level information. Training on the report tool for LEAs will be provided in the webinar series listed below.
 2. A reduced number of existing questions from the current CLIP that are needed to address specific and unique program requirements that the district CNA report cannot adequately address.
 3. School improvement plans (district and schoolwide schools), connected to the district’s flexibility contract and driven by the single comprehensive needs assessment report developed at the district and school levels. The same CNA report template developed by the GaDOE for the district level will be utilized at the school level, with appropriate adjustments made to the template to reflect school level data. The Title II, Part A equity plan will also be submitted as part of the CLIP.

Cross division teams of GaDOE staff will meet together and review each LEA’s CLIP to ensure individual Federal program requirements are addressed within the three pieces. The purpose is to align our supports, across all programs, toward the district’s improvement plans. Budget development will continue to be program specific, as in past years. However, review and approval of budgets will be based on what was provided in the CLIP (needs assessment, questions, and improvement plans).

- Flexible Learning Plan (FLP). For FY18, the FLP will no longer be a required component for schools receiving Title I, Part A funding. (Current requirements for FY17 FLP’s are still in place.) All schools will complete the single comprehensive needs assessment and school improvement plans. This school improvement plan will address how students needing additional support will be served using evidenced-based interventions. The interventions within the school improvement plans will be vetted by cross division teams at GaDOE . More details will be provided in the Friday webinar series.
- Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement Friday Webinar Series. To support your district’s completion of the FY18 CLIP, the GaDOE will offer a webinar series designed to move district’s through this process. The dates are listed below (webinars will be recorded and posted on our website). Please register for each webinar by clicking on the link:

Date	Time	Topic	Registration Link
February 10	10:00 am	Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement Overview	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6085348639426798083



February 17	10:00 am	Planning and Preparation	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8729505878949133315
February 24	10:00 am	Coherent Instructional System	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7115378828908875011
March 3	10:00 am	Effective Leadership	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3780359950748044291
March 10	10:00 am	Professional Capacity	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7732175165277319939
March 17	10:00 am	Family & Community Engagement	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6450123716569599491
March 24	10:00 am	Supportive Learning Environment	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3176171714215429891
March 31	10:00 am	Identifying Need: Root Causes, Drawing Conclusions, and Prioritizing	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4936811987191766787
April 7	10:00 am	Problem Solving Process; Selecting Interventions	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4027792947951231747
April 21	10:00 am	Improvement Planning – Systems and Processes	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7622694593476499715
April 28	10:00 am	Planning – Budgeting	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8795875699336760067
May 5	10:00 am	Submitting the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9058433578491547907

- The GaDOE is planning to notify all districts of projected federal program allocations for FY18 in April. The purpose of sharing projected allocations in April is to support district planning efforts in a more timely manner. Official allocations will be approved by the State Board of Education in July and August 2017. In April, each district will receive a single notice listing projections for Title I, Part, A; Title I, Part C; Title I, Part D subpart 2; Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A; 1003a, and IDEA. Projections for Title III, Part A and Title V, Part A will be provided during the summer.



- **ADVANCED ORGANIZER:** In order to provide these projected allocations, Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A will be requesting LEAs to submit data for private school enrollment and poverty, new charter LEA enrollment and poverty, and significant growth in a charter LEA a few weeks earlier than in past years. Information regarding these requests will be sent to Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A district contacts in the coming weeks.

- **New Staff Announcements**
 - The Office of Federal Programs would like to welcome the following new employees:
 - Ms. Susan Holcomb, Family Engagement Specialist
 - Ms. Ann Marie Wiseman, Title I, Part A Specialist

- **Summer Conference “Save the Date”**
 - The Federal Programs Summer Conference will occur on June 21-22, 2017 at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference theme is “ESSA: All About Improving Schools”. As in years past, new directors will be invited to attend a one-day training on June 20, 2017. Draft agendas, registration logistics, and hotel information will be available in the coming weeks.

Please visit the Office of Federal Programs website for additional information: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Wight
 Director, Federal Programs
 Georgia Department of Education
 1854 Twin Towers East
 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive
 Atlanta, GA 30334
 (404) 463-1857 - Office
 (404) 821-9741 - Cell
 (770) 408-4202 - Fax
jwight@doe.k12.ga.us

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