

New York State Education Department

2021-2022 LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs

Executive Summary

Background Information:

NYSED has developed the online 2021-22 Consolidated Application for ESSA-Funded Programs to support the timely administration of ESSA-funded programs to local educational agencies (LEAs) across the state. Consistent with federal requirements, the new online application for the 2021-22 school year has replaced the traditional NYSED Consolidated Application process. The application will be made available to LEAs through the NYSED Business Portal before the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

The application is streamlined to focus on the required assurances from Section 8306 of the ESSA, as well as fiscal and programmatic information that staff have determined is necessary to properly administer each program. The additional information requested in the application will allow NYSED reviewers to ensure that all LEAs are fully prepared to effectively address key provisions of ESSA regulations. For example, the application includes a significant focus on consultation with required constituent groups in the design of ESSA-supported programs. Even though LEAs will provide assurances that consultation has occurred, NYSED has determined that *evidence* of that consultation should be provided as part of the application process. Toward that end, documentation of the constituent groups included in consultation, along with a *Written Affirmation of LEA Consultation with Private School Officials Form* will be required as part of the initial application.

The online format dramatically improves NYSED's capacity to collect and analyze district-provided data in a timely manner, and then utilize that data to provide targeted support to LEAs as part of shared continuous improvement efforts. For example, the format will allow NYSED to quickly review LEA-determined per pupil amounts for Title I, Part A programs to confirm that funds for services are appropriately distributed among eligible public and non-public schools. For LEAs whose calculation methodologies are not clear or are not consistent with ESSA requirements, NYSED program staff will be able to provide immediate technical assistance to ensure the proper distribution of funds.

The online application also supports better coordination among NYSED program offices – furthering the Department's capacity to support continuous improvement through technical assistance. For example, consultation forms and other data related to equitable services to private school students and teachers will be shared with the Ombudsman to help coordinate technical assistance and monitoring efforts between the Title I School and Community Services Office and the State Office of Religious and Independent Schools. Similarly, data about an LEA's use of Title II, Part A funds will be easily shared with District and School Review Teams from the Office of Accountability and the Office of Educator Quality and Professional Development to help LEAs maximize the use of evidence-based professional development strategies in identified schools.

Questions about the *2021-22 Consolidated Application for ESSA-Funded Programs* can be directed to the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs at 518-473-0295 or via email at conappta@nysed.gov.