

New York State Education Department 2017-2018 LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs Executive Summary

Background Information:

To ensure an orderly transition to the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the United States Department of Education (USDE) has informed State Educational Agencies (SEAs) that they may submit an ESSA Consolidated State Plan for review in either April 2017 or September 2017. The New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) has elected to submit an ESSA Consolidated State Plan to USDE in September 2017. As a result, it is likely that NYSED’s ESSA Consolidated State Plan will not be approved until well after the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

To ensure that an SEA’s access to FY17 funds for programs authorized under ESSA is not delayed because of the review process, USDE has determined that SEAs need only submit the assurances required in ESSA Section 8304. Timely submission of the assurances will allow NYSED to distribute funds to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) before the Consolidated State Plan is approved. However, NYSED cannot require LEAs to submit a Consolidated Application until the Department’s Consolidated State Plan is approved by USDE. Instead, USDE has indicated that an SEA must minimally collect from an LEA the assurances included in Section 8306 of the ESSA prior to awarding FY17 funds to that LEA. In addition to the required LEA assurances, SEAs may collect any other information the SEA deems necessary for proper implementation of each grant program.

2017-2018 LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs:

NYSED has developed the online 2017-18 LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs to support the timely administration of ESSA-funded programs to LEAs across the state. Consistent with the requirements outlined above, the new online application format beginning with the 2017-18 school year will replace the current Consolidated Application. The application will be made available to LEAs through the NYSED Business Portal before the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

The new application has been streamlined to focus on the required assurances from Section 8306 of the ESSA, as well as programmatic and fiscal 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 the new law. 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 new *Written Affirmation of LEA Consultation with Private School Officials Form*, will be required as part of the initial application.

The new online format will dramatically improve NYSED’s capacity to collect and analyze timely district-submitted data and then utilize that data to provide targeted support to LEAs as part of shared continuous improvement efforts. For example, the new 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 will also support 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 new 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 2017-2018 LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs can be directed to the Title I School and Community Services Office at 518-473-0295 or via email at conappta@nysed.gov.