

Guidance to Complete the General Education Provision Act (GEPA) Section 427 Form

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has updated the GEPA Section 427 Form. As part of New York State Education Department's (NYSED) requirement to properly administer the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant, each local educational agency (LEA) must submit a GEPA Section 427 form as part of their application submission.

NYSED will not approve any LEA IDEA grant application without a completed GEPA 427 form.

If your district has a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion office, it is strongly suggested that it be included in the process to complete the GEPA Section 427 form.

Form Overview

EQUITY FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES, used by grantees seeking Federal assistance under USDE grant programs to address the GEPA Section 427 ([20 U.S.C. 1228a](#)) requirements effective April 3, 2023.

GEPA Section 427 requires that grantees, based on the design of their proposed grant project, the participants, the community the project proposes to serve, and local circumstances, determine the extent to which identified barriers prevent equitable access to or participation in their federal grant projects.

Form Instructions

- Grantees may identify any barriers that may impede equitable access and participation in the proposed IDEA project or activity, including, but not limited to, barriers based on economic disadvantage, gender, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, age, language, migrant status, rural status, homeless status or housing insecurity, pregnancy, parenting, or caregiving status, and sexual orientation.
- Grantees are not required to have mission statements or policies that align with equity in order to complete the GEPA Sect 427 form.
- Grantees that have already undertaken steps to address barriers must still provide an explanation and/or description of the steps already taken in each text box, as appropriate, to satisfy the GEPA Section 427 requirement.
- Grantees that believe no barriers exist must still provide an explanation and/or description to each question to validate that perception, as appropriate, to satisfy the GEPA Section 427 requirement.

NYSED GEPA 427 Form

NYSED was required to complete the updated GEPA 427 Form as part of New York's Annual State Application under Part B of IDEA, which was submitted to USDE. A copy of NYSED's completed [IDEA Part B Application - GEPA 427 Form is posted for reference.](#)

Form Training from USDE

Grantees may learn more about GEPA Section 427 and the form updates by participating in a 30-minute computer-based training titled, *Ensuring Equitable Opportunities Under the GEPA Section 427*, at [Grants Training and Management Resources Online Grants Training Courses.](#)