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SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION STATE GRANTS

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION (PRC 103)

US Department of Education

Federal Authorization: Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) P.L. 114-95. Effective 07/01/17.

State Project/Program: Supporting Effective Instruction (PRC 103)

N. C. Department of Public Instruction

Agency Contacts:

Program

Dr. Laticia Townsend, Director
Federal Program Monitoring and Support
Division
Laticia.Townsend@dpi.nc.gov (919) 807-3957

Susan Brigman, Acting Assistant Director
Federal Program Monitoring and Support
Division
Susan.Brigman@dpi.nc.gov (919) 807-3830

Financial

John Keefer, Budget Manager
Division of School Business
John.Keefer@dpi.nc.gov (919) 807-3747

N.C. DPI Confirmation Reports:

Confirmation of Funds Expended and/or Disbursed from the State Public School Fund and Federal Programs 2019-20 will be available at the [NC DPI School Business Division Annual Reports Application](#). The system provides an electronic view of Year-to-Date (YTD) financial reports in response to requests for confirmation from independent auditors.

The auditor should not consider the Supplement to be “safe harbor” for identifying audit procedures to apply in a particular engagement, but the auditor should be prepared to justify departures from the suggested procedures. The auditor can consider the supplement a “safe harbor” for identification of compliance requirements to be tested if the auditor performs reasonable procedures to ensure that the requirements in the Supplement are current. The grantor agency may elect to review audit working papers to determine that audit tests are adequate.

This compliance supplement should be used in conjunction with the OMB 2020 Compliance Supplement which will be issued in the summer. This includes “Part 3 - Compliance Requirements,” for the types that apply, “Part 6 - Internal Control,” and “Part 4 - Agency Program” requirements if the Agency issued guidance for a specific program. The OMB Compliance Supplement is Section A of the State Compliance Supplement.

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the program is to provide grants to State educational agencies and subgrants to local educational agencies to (1) increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards; (2) improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders; (3) increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and (4) provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

This program is carried out by, but not limited to: 1) Reforming teacher, principal, or other school leader certification, recertification, licensing, or tenure systems or preparation program standards and approval processes; 2) developing, improving, or providing assistance to local educational agencies to support the design and implementation of teacher, principal, or other school leader evaluation and support systems 3) improving equitable access to effective teachers; 4) carrying out programs that establish, expand, or improve alternative routes for State certification of teachers (especially for teachers of children with disabilities, English learners, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or other areas where the State experiences a shortage of educators), principals, or other school leaders; and 5) developing, improving, and implementing mechanisms to assist local educational agencies and schools in effectively recruiting and retaining teachers, principals, or other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement, including effective teachers from underrepresented minority groups and teachers with disabilities; and 6) providing assistance to local educational agencies for the development and implementation of high-quality professional development programs for principals that enable the principals to be effective and prepare all students to meet the challenging State academic standards.

II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

Each State educational agency must submit an application to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. A state may choose to submit their applications as part of the Consolidated Plan. Applications are approved by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are provided to each state educational agency (SEA), N. C. Department of Public Instruction (DPI), for allocation to local education agencies (LEAs) and Charter Schools that have current approved project applications on file with the SEA describing the project to be implemented using these funds.

The “hold harmless” provision has been eliminated and funds are allotted to LEAs/Charter Schools based on the following formula:

- Twenty percent (20%) will be distributed based on relative population of children aged 5-17.
- Eighty percent (80%) will be distributed based on the relative population of children 5-17 from families with income below the poverty line.

Allotment reports are sent from the School Allotment Section of the Division of School Business notifying the LEAs of the amount of funds that they have available.

Funds are distributed according to the cash request procedures discussed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements, DPI-0.

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Type of Compliance Requirements can be found in Section B in the link: [2020 Agency Matrix for Federal Programs](#). This matrix incorporates the OMB Compliance Supplement “Part 2 - Matrix of Compliance Requirement.” A State Agency may have added a compliance requirement that the OMB matrix in Part 2 has a “N” (Not Applicable).

The NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) mandates that all testing in the DPI Cross-Cutting Requirements be performed by the local auditor. Please refer to Cross-Cutting Requirements DPI-0.

Other procedures that pertain to this program can be found in the US Department of Education Cross-cutting Section and the Federal Compliance Supplement.

A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

Compliance Requirements:

Funds may be used by a LEA or other operating agency only in accordance with the approved State plan and only for those services or activities in its approved project application.

Approved project applications may include some of the following allowable activities:

1. Developing or improving a rigorous, transparent, and fair evaluation and support system for teachers, principals, or other school leaders.
2. Developing and implementing initiatives to assist in recruiting, hiring, and retaining effective teachers, particularly in low-income schools with high percentages of ineffective teachers and high percentages of students who do not meet the challenging State academic standards, to improve within-district equity in the distribution of teachers, consistent with section 1111(g)(1)(B).
3. Recruiting qualified individuals from other fields to become teachers, principals, or other school leaders, including mid-career professionals from other occupations, former military personnel, and recent graduates of institutions of higher education with records of academic distinction who demonstrate potential to become effective teachers, principals, or other school leaders.
4. Reducing class size to a level that is evidence-based, to the extent the State (in consultation with local educational agencies in the State) determines that such evidence is reasonably available, to improve student achievement through the recruiting and hiring of additional effective teachers.
5. Providing high-quality, personalized professional development that is evidence-based, to the extent the State (in consultation with local educational agencies in the State) determines that such evidence is reasonably available, for teachers, instructional leadership teams, principals, or other school leaders, that is focused on improving teaching and student learning and achievement, including supporting efforts to train teachers, principals, or other school leaders to:

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- c. Forming partnerships between school-based mental health programs and public or private mental health organizations.
 - d. Addressing issues related to school conditions for student learning, such as safety, peer interaction, drug and alcohol abuse, and chronic absenteeism.
 - 10. Providing training to support the identification of students who are gifted and talented, including high-ability students who have not been formally identified for gifted education services, and implementing instructional practices that support the education of such students, such as the following:
 - a. Early entrance to kindergarten.
 - b. Enrichment, acceleration, and curriculum compacting activities.
 - c. Dual or concurrent enrollment programs in secondary school and postsecondary education.
 - 11. Supporting the instructional services provided by effective school library programs.
 - 12. Providing training for all school personnel, including teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, and paraprofessionals, regarding how to prevent and recognize child sexual abuse.
 - 13. Developing and providing professional development and other comprehensive systems of support for teachers, principals, or other school leaders to promote high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, including computer science.
 - 14. Developing feedback mechanisms to improve school working conditions, including through periodically and publicly reporting results of educator support and working conditions feedback.
 - 15. Providing high-quality professional development for teachers, principals, or other school leaders on effective strategies to integrate rigorous academic content, career and technical education, and work-based learning (if appropriate), which may include providing common planning time, to help prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce.
 - 16. Carrying out other activities that are evidence-based, to the extent the State (in consultation with local educational agencies in the State) determines that such evidence is reasonably available, and identified by the local educational agency that meet the purpose of this title.

A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

Compliance Requirement - Funds may be used by a LEA or other operating agency only in accordance with the approved State plan and only for those services or activities in its project application.

Audit Objective – To determine that expenditures are allowable and properly recorded.

Suggested Audit Procedures – Obtain a copy of the Budget Balance Reconciliation Report (305/705) from the finance officer and compare to local accounting record for appropriateness. Test expenditure and related records to determine if expenditures were made only for those services or activities in the project application.

- Obtain a copy of the approved project plan and approved program budget from the local program coordinator.
- Review expenditures to determine that expenditures are in accordance with the approved project plan.
- Review salary expenditures to determine that personnel paid from these funds do not exceed budgeted personnel in approved program budget.

B. Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

C. Cash Management

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

E. Eligibility

Eligibility for Subrecipients – This compliance requirement does not apply at the local level. The local auditor is not required to test for compliance with this requirement.

G. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking

1. Matching

This compliance requirement does not apply at the local level. No testing required.

2. Level of Effort

Addressed in the US Department of Education Cross-Cutting Section.

H. Period of Availability of Federal Funds

Addressed in the US Department of Education Cross-Cutting Section and Federal Compliance Supplement.

Compliance Requirement - Expenditures may not be incurred before the project begins. Any expenditure prior to the beginning date are considered unallowable and must be refunded to SEA.

Audit Objective – To determine that no expenditures were incurred prior to the date the project began.

Suggested Audit Procedure:

- Review transactions to verify that no expenditures were incurred prior to the approved application beginning date.
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I. Procurement and Suspension and Debarment

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

L. Reporting

Addressed in the US Department of Education Cross-Cutting Section and NC

M. Subrecipient Monitoring

This compliance requirement does not apply at the local level. No testing is required.

N. Special Tests and Provisions

Compliance Requirement - An LEA may transfer all or a lesser amount of its Title II and Title IV allocation to supplement its allocation under Title I, Parts A, C, and D, and/or Title III, Parts A and B per Section 5103 in ESSA.

Audit Objective - An LEA that wishes to transfer funds must do so by budget amendment: (1) using the object code 722 to transfer the funds out of the desired federal program entering the amount to be transferred out as a positive number and (2) using the object code 721 to transfer the funds into the desired federal program entering the amount to be transferred in as a negative number.

Suggested Audit Procedures:

- Verify that the LEA or charter school performed budget amendments for both federal programs affected by the transfer.
- Verify that the budget amendments performed by the LEA or charter school used the appropriate object codes.