

R. Title II, Part A—2015–16 Consolidated Application Program Highlights

2015-2016 Consolidated Application

Program Highlights

Program Name: Title II, Part A – Improving Teacher Quality – Professional Development

Program Managers: Angeline Rivello and Wendy Modzelewski

Contact Information:

wendy.modzelewski@doe.k12.de.us

Office: 302-857-3312

Cell: 302-545-2561

angeline.rivello@doe.k12.de.us

Cell: 302-373-9642

Program Resources:

- Grant Approval Checklist (pending)
- Website: (pending)
- <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg22.html>
 - SEC. 2121. Allocations to Local Educational Agencies
 - SEC. 2122. Local Applications and Needs Assessment
 - SEC. 2123. Local Use of Fund
- Title II, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance (www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/guidance.doc)

A. Major Changes to 2015-2016 grant process:

1. We have consolidated the Needs Assessment for (1) Staff Training and (2) HQ into one needs assessment for Teacher Effectiveness. Please ensure that your Needs Assessment addresses multiple aspects of Educator quality and effectiveness. Visit the Non-Regulatory Guidance to ensure that all of the appropriate individuals are involved and maintain records.
2. We have greatly reduced the number of questions. Remember, however, that your LEA is legally required to fulfill the obligations of the law even though we have not asked questions specific to all the requirements.

B. Major challenges/obstacles during 2014-2015 grant process:

1. **PD Participants** – Only the Superintendent & Assistant, Principals & Assistants, teachers and sometimes Paras may participate. District Staff may not use IIA funds.
2. **Budget Allocations** must have specific details that demonstrate alignment to your needs assessment findings.
3. **Substitutes and Supplies/Materials** – You **MUST** fund some aspect of the PD in order to use the funds for either Substitutes or Supplies/Materials.
4. **Staff Hiring** (Must state the FTE)
 - Types of Staff and Budget Line Descriptions:
 - Class Size Reduction Units –Specify that they are HQ, Assigned to a High Need School, Subject Area, name or initials
 - Instructional Coaches – List core content area they address
 - District Staff – FTE is limited to the time for professional development they conduct.

- Secretaries – only the FTE for activities relative to Title IIA
 - Time and Effort reporting and task logs will be required for monitoring/audit. The LEA must demonstrate that the individual's Time and Effort equates to the FTE.
 - 5. **Staffing analysis and needs assessment** - Many LEAs struggled explaining their staffing analysis and needs assessment. This explanation should be comprehensive of all teaching positions regardless of funding source.
 - 6. **Involve your HR Staff** - Please consult with your district HR staff to complete this section. A staffing analysis and needs assessment is required by law. This should include a list of vacancies that are anticipated based on preliminary staffing information and the April 1st 98% guaranteed units allocation. It should also include a timeline of activities for how vacancies are determined and filled. It must be: *“conducted with the involvement of teachers, including teachers participating in programs under part A of title I, and shall take into account the activities that need to be conducted in order to give teachers the means, including subject matter knowledge and teaching skills, and to give principals the instructional leadership skills to help teachers, to provide students with the opportunity to meet challenging State and local student academic achievement standards.”*
 - 7. **Title IX Equitable Services** (now in Section 3.12; Districts only; not Charters)
 - Funding allocation must come from Title IIA funds; you must meet or exceed your hold harmless amount
 - Decisions about what will be purchased/provided should be decided prior to purchase being made
- C. Major changes/revised expectations for the 2015-2016 grant process:**
1. The needs derived from Needs Assessment must be clearly listed.
 2. Demonstrate clear connections between the Needs Assessment, the Findings, and the Budget Expenditures.
 3. Title IIA is a source of funding to help sustain successful RTTT initiatives, so you may need to reconsider how you use these funds in order to continue those initiatives.
 4. The focus of your Title IIA funds should be on high-needs schools in your district. Use data to drive your decisions - data such as DPAS II to determine how to get the most effective teachers for the neediest kids. Your answers must address the question of distribution of effective educators especially in your district's highest need schools.