

# Louisiana Believes

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2014-15: Creating the Plan for Success

# Planning for 2014-15

Over the course of the past 4 months, the Department has provided increased, intensive support to districts in planning around the key focus areas:

1. School Leader & Teacher Learning Targets
2. Assessment & Curriculum
3. School & Teacher Collaboration
4. Compass Observation & Feedback
5. Pathway to College and Career
6. Align Resources

This week, the Department is releasing the **Unified Application** for federal funds that allows districts to apply for funds that directly support these priorities. In addition, the Department is publishing **Program Specific Guidance** that outlines the flexibility available to districts across all federal funding streams

# Unified Application: Overview

**LDOE has released the Unified Application for 2014-15 school year.**

**What is the Unified Application?** The consolidation of 30+ grant applications into one application process.

The Unified Application will allow districts to consider:

1. What is most important for my districts to finance/purchase in order to increase student achievement?
2. How can I use all of these grants in a coordinated way to finance/purchase these high priority items?

# Unified Application: New Programs

**LDOE has added the following grant programs to the Unified Application for the 2014-15 school year:**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Communities
- Believe and Succeed
- Educator Excellence Fund (EEF)
- LA4
- Math and Science Partnerships
- SPDG

All programs that were included in the Unified Applications for 13-14 will be included for 14-15.

# Program Specific Guidance: Fiscal Flexibility and Planning

LDOE has developed the following tools to support your efforts to plan for the 14-15 school year.

Tools include:

- **District Financial Dashboard:** *Released in district planning meetings January/February 2014*
- **Use of funds info-graphics:** *Released in district planning meetings January/February 2014*
- **Program Specific Guidance:** *Released late-April 2014*

Each of these tools have been developed to support your district in aligning its financial resources to your academic priorities.

# Program Specific Guidance: General Spending Considerations

To meet the fiscal responsibilities of grant administration, LEAs must implement controls in at least five key areas:

- **Allowability:** Controls needed to ensure federal funds are spent consistent with program requirements, such as eligible participants, uses of funds, and permissible or required activities
- **Payroll/human resource records:** Controls needed to ensure federal funds only support employees who work on federal programs
- **Procurement:** Controls needed to ensure goods and services purchased with federal funds are acquired at reasonable prices
- **Inventory management:** Controls needed to ensure items purchased with federal funds are used for federal programs
- **Financial management:** Controls needed to ensure the costs charged to federal grants, including budgeting, accounting, and reporting.

# Program Specific Guidance: Program Considerations

Program specific considerations are detailed for each state and federal funding source for the 2014-15 school year and include:

- Program purpose
- Eligibility considerations and use of funds
- Program specific fiscal requirements

Let's review Title II, Part A as an example.

# Example: Title II, Part A

## Program purpose

The purpose of the Title II program is to increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality. This program is carried out by: increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms; increasing the number of highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools; and increasing the effectiveness of teachers and principals by holding LEAs and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.

## Eligibility Considerations and Use of Funds

LEAs should generally target Title II, Part A funds or services to schools that have the lowest proportion of highly qualified teachers, have the largest average class size; or are identified as “priority” or “focus” schools.

LEAs are required to conduct a needs assessment to determine the needs of the LEA’s teaching force in order to be able to have all students meet state standards. The needs assessment should take into account:

- The activities the LEA must conduct in order to give teachers the means to provide all students with the opportunity to meet state standards; and
- The activities the LEA must conduct in order to give principals the instructional leadership skills to help teachers provide all students with the opportunity to meet state standards.
- The LEA must spend its Title II, Part A funds consistent with the results of the needs assessment.



# Example: Title II, Part A (continued)

## **Program-Specific Fiscal Requirements**

Title II is governed by a supplement not supplant provision. Supplanting is presumed when:

- An LEA uses Title II funds to provide services the LEA is required to make available under other federal, state or local laws.
- An LEA uses Title II funds to provide services the LEA provided with state or local funds in the prior year.

It is also governed by maintenance of effort provision that generally prohibits LEAs from substantially reducing the level of state and local funding they spend on free public education from year-to-year.

Please note the use of citations to support the guidance

# Program Specific Guidance: Supporting Flexibility

LDOE's program specific guidance document should provide key information for each state and federal program and should provide you information on new and existing flexibilities options to support you as you align for financial resources to your academic priorities.

If you have any questions you should reach out to your NCLB or IDEA point-of-contact for additional support and guidance.

[Point-of-Contact by District](#)

# Guidance on Specific Grants

**There are two grants for which the Department is providing specific guidance.**

**High Cost Services (HCS):** Funding to support the needs of students with high cost disabilities

**McKinney Vento Homeless:** Funding to support the needs of homeless students

# HCS: Overview

## **What is High Cost Services?**

High Cost Services (HCS), formerly referred to as the High Risk Pool, provides focused financial support to school systems and schools to assist them in educating students with high cost disabilities during the 2014-2015 school year

For the 2014-2015 school year, LDOE has designated approximately \$8.4 million dollars to support HCS.

- \$4M from MFP funds
- \$4.4M from State IDEA funds

HCS applications should be submitted using the Unified Application.

# HCS: Eligibility

Students are eligible for HCS funds if they meet the following criteria:

- The cost to educate and provide services to the student should exceed three times the average per pupil cost of \$11,277

$$3 \times \$11,277 = \$33,831$$

- The cost to educate and provide services to that student causes a negative financial impact on the budget
- All services and supports listed in the HCS application **must** be included in the student's IEP, evaluation, health plan, or behavior plan

# Homeless: Overview

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program aims help homeless students break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by promoting *enrollment, attendance, and success* in school. The Program is designed to address the barriers to achievement that homeless children and youth face.

- \$1.2M of funding is available.
- Grants are for a three-year funding cycle.

Applications must be submitted by close of business on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

# Key Dates

<b>April 28, 2014</b>	2014-15 Unified Application is released
<b>May 15, 2014</b>	Submission deadline for McKinney Vento Homeless application
<b>June 14, 2014</b>	2014-15 Unified Application entitlement applications are due
<b>June 30, 2014</b>	Submission deadline for High Cost Services application

# LDOE Support

Date	Audience	Location
April 28, 2014 2 p.m. -3 p.m.	School Leaders	<a href="#">Webinar</a>
April 30, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	NEW Directors only (All Networks)	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
May 6, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Networks 1 and 2	Learning Center for Rapides, 1410 Neel Kearby Blvd, Alexandria, LA 71303, 318-484-2184
May 7, 2014 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	School Leaders	<a href="#">Webinar</a>
May 8, 2014 9a.m. to 4 p.m.	Network 5	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
May 14, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Networks 3 and 4	Louisiana Technology Park 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
May 15, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Charters	Louisiana Technology Park 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
June 10, 2014 9 a.m. To 4 p.m. .	School Leaders	Learning Center for Rapides Parish 1410 Neel Kearby Blvd. Alexandria, CA 71303
June 11, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	School Leaders	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
June 12, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	School Leaders	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
June 13, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	School Leaders	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
June 17, 2014 9 a.m. To 4 p.m.	21CCLC BR are and vicinity	Louisiana Technology Park, 7117 Florida Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-218-1100
June 18, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	21CCLC Orleans, Lafourche, Jefferson and vicinity	Jefferson Parish School System – Administration Bldg., 501 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA
June 24, 2014 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	21CCLC Shreveport, Quachita, Monroe, Madison, Natchitoches, Moorehouse and vicinity	Face-to-Face: Bossier Parish Schools Technology Center – Bossier



## Next Steps

- Prepare and submit a High Cost Services and McKinney Vento Homeless application
- Attend program specific Unified Application webinars or face-to-face trainings
- Use program specific guidance to support your planning process
- Reach out to your NCLB/IDEA point-of-contact for support and assistance