

Louisiana Believes

Empowering Educators: Planning for Success
Office of Student Programs

Louisiana Believes...

We believe that educators and families, not bureaucrats in Baton Rouge and Washington D.C., are the individuals whose decision making will drive new levels of student achievement. Educators should be able to make decisions on how best to educate the children they serve each day.

Objective

Educators have plans for how best to increase student achievement. Our goal is to ensure you can align federal dollars to your plan.

LDOE will support your plan in the following ways:

1. Programmatic Support Structure – Supporting the planning process
2. Unified Application - Creating the plan
3. Fiscal Flexibility - Funding the plan
4. Coordinated Monitoring - Accountability for the plan

Office of Student Programs: Supporting the Planning Process

Each district will have one NCLB and one IDEA point-of-contact at LDOE. This person will:

- Answer all programmatic questions
- Review and approve applications
- Prepare your district for audits/monitoring

Next Steps for school leaders:

- Participate in upcoming Unified Application webinars
- Contact your NCLB and IDEA point-of-contact for support and assistance

Unified Application—Creating the Plan

What is the Unified Application? The Unified Application is the consolidation of 23 grant applications process into one planning process.

How does it empower academic leaders?

- Promotes alignment between Classroom Support Strategies and financial resources
- Increases opportunity to braid funding sources
- Creates an efficient grant management process
- Eliminates time-consuming application components
- One-stop-shop for all grant management functions

Fiscal Flexibility—Funding the Plan

What is fiscal flexibility? Fiscal flexibility allows districts to use federal and state funds to support their district's plan to increase student achievement.

How does it empower academic leaders?

- Allows districts to fund services that target *all* students, especially the lowest performing
- Allows for alignment between a district's plan for students and their allotted federal funds
- [Schoolwide model](#)
- Supplement vs. supplant

Steps for Achieving Flexibility: Schoolwide Plan

In order to maximize federal dollars develop a schoolwide plan: This will allow educators to maximize the use of all funds for all students, particularly the lowest achieving students, rather than only lowest performing students.

Steps to developing a schoolwide plan are:

- Allocate state and local funding equitably to all schools
- Conduct a Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Complete schoolwide plan addressing the 10 components of schoolwide plan
- Implement an annual review process

97% of Louisiana's Title I schools are already operating the schoolwide model, but many are not taking full advantage of the fiscal flexibilities.

Fiscal Flexibility: Supplanting

In a schoolwide program, a LEA must prove that it did not reduce a school's state or local allocation because it received federal funds. It must equitably distribute state and local dollars to all schools.

Once a district demonstrates this, it can support **any cost** consistent with its needs assessment and schoolwide plan using federal dollars. **The three presumptions of supplanting do not apply to schoolwide schools.**

How does this empower academic leaders?

- Greater opportunity to address barriers to student performance
- Ability to support Common Core State Standards, Compass, PARCC, Arts Education and Advanced Placement
- Reduced regulatory requirements on district staff and school leadership

Are these expenses Critical to Student Achievement?

\$1,082,920: Administrative Director; Director of Compliance, Director of Budget, Director of Fiscal Management; Director of Monitoring; Coordinator of Instruction and Parental Involvement; Coordinator of Instruction and Nonpublic

**\$684,034:
Calculators for
Title I math
classrooms**

**\$259,487: Stipends
for Temporary
Employees and Bus
Drivers for Field
Trips**

**\$2,000: Travel for
Title I Secretary**

**\$16,000:
Purchase of
copier for use
by Title I
Support
Personnel to
replace an
older copier**

**81% of a district's Title
I allocation is being
used for central office
functions**

**\$949,341: 43 Computer Assisted
Instruction Lab Managers to assist
teachers in the effective use of computers**

What can a district do with Fiscal Flexibility?

Common Core State Standards

Federal funds may be used to cover costs associated with preparing for the transition to Common Core State Standards.

PARCC

Federal funds may be used for technology costs associated with PARCC assessments.

Compass

Federal funds may be used to purchase iPads, provide training and hire staff to support Compass evaluations.

Arts Education

Federal funds may be used to hire arts educators and to support other costs related to arts education programming .

Coordinated Monitoring-Accountability for The Plan

What is coordinated monitoring? Coordinated monitoring is the streamlining of LDOE's programmatic monitoring activities that prevents districts from being monitored more than once per year.

How does this empower academic leaders?

- Provides one programmatic monitoring review for all programs
- Improves LDOE communication during the monitoring process
- Gives districts clear programmatic and compliance requirements
- Increases efficiency and allows district staff to spend less time on compliance and more time on supporting academic achievement

Expected release date July 2013

What are the Key Takeaways?

Things to Remember:

1. We're here to support your plan
2. The Unified Application will support the development of your plan
3. There is greater fiscal flexibility for you
4. Coordinated Monitoring is going to be a much easier process for your district

Next Steps: Contact Your POC

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Network Team 1	Casetta.Robinson@LA.GOV (225)342-3177	Keita.Rone@LA.GOV (225)342-5996
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We are here to help you increase student academic achievement