

**Every Student Success Act (ESSA)  
Early Childhood Requirements\***

**Title I Part A State Plan, Accountability and Reporting, Schools in Need of Support and Improvement, LEA Plan, LEA Plans – Comprehensive and targeted support and Improvement**

| Early Learning Obligations to be addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Comments**                                                                                                                                      |
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| Describe how SEA will assist school districts and schools that decide to use Title I funds to support early childhood education programs<br>(Sec 1111 (g) (1) (A))                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Consolidated plans require state strategies and rationale for supporting the continuum of a child’s education from PreK-12.                     |
| SEA must demonstrate how it has coordinated early learning services with agencies implementing CCDBG and Head Start<br>(Sec. 111(a) (1) (B))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                 |
| State report cards will include the number and percent of students enrolled in preschool programs. (Sec. 111 (h) (1) (C) (vii) (II) (aa))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Still some question of whether this requirement includes all programs serving children less than age 6 or only state-funded preschool programs. |
| An LEA may reserve funds to provide early childhood programs for Title I eligible children. (Sec. 1113 (C) (5) and Sec. 1007 (3) (A) (5))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                 |
| LEAs must coordinate with early childhood education programs (including developing agreements with Head Start agencies and other entities) – whether or not they are using Title I funds to support early learning (Sec. 1112 (a) (1) (B) and 1112 (b) (8)).                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                 |
| If an LEA is using Title I resources for early learning, the LEA Title I plans must describe how the district will support, coordinate, and integrate early childhood education services provided through Title I with other early childhood education programs at the district or school level, including plans for transition to local elementary schools. (Sec. 1112 (b) (8)). |                                                                                                                                                 |
| If an LEA is using Title I resources for early learning, the LEA-provided Title I early childhood services must comply with performance standards in the Head Start Act (641A(a) Sec. 1112 (c) (7)).                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                 |
| Districts are expected to comply, including by pursuing the availability of other funding sources to assist with such compliance. (Sec. 1112 (d) (2))                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | New Head Start Performance standards just issued.                                                                                               |
| A school that operates a schoolwide program may use funds to establish or enhance preschool programs for children who are under 6 years of age. (Sec 1114 (c)).                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Coordination and integration with other federal, state, and local programs such as Head Start is specifically mentioned. (Sec 1114)             |
| Targeted assistance program funds may be used for early learning services to eligible students and may include kindergarten transition strategies. (Sec. 1115 (1) (b) (2) (C))                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                 |

**Title I Parts B State Assessment, Part C Education of Migratory Children**

| Early Learning Obligations to be addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Comments |
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| <p>The required State plan for services for migratory children and their families includes, among other provisions, services for helping children and families gain access to other education, health, nutrition and social services and providing family literacy programs. (Sec. 1301 (c) (2) (F) (7))</p> |          |

**Title II Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, or Other School Leaders**

| Early Learning Obligations to be addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p>LEAs must submit applications to the SEA to receive subgrants, including assurance that there has been participation by private school children and teachers and that LEAs will coordinate professional development activities with other professional development opportunities provided through other federal, state, and local programs. (Sec. 2102 (b))</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>“private schools” should include pre-k community programs. Other professional development opportunities should include early childhood professional development opportunities provided through the OEC and Head Start.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| <p>For LEARN Grants (<b>L</b>iteracy <b>E</b>ducation for <b>A</b>ll, <b>R</b>esults for the <b>N</b>ation) The SEA is required to collaborate with the state agencies responsible for administering early childhood education programs and child care programs in developing the early childhood portion of the grant application including the Early Childhood State Advisory Council.</p> <p>States must use at least 15% of funds for programs for birth through kindergarten entry; provide an assurance of priority for subgrants to entities that serve children from birth through age 5 who are from families with income levels at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (Sec 2222 (de) Sec 2223 (a)).</p> | <p>These are <b>competitive</b> 5-year grants (with a 2-year option) to be awarded to states with emphasis on providing subgrants to a diversity of geographic areas with priorities for those that serve the greatest numbers or percentages of children from low-income families and developing comprehensive literacy instruction plans. (Sec 2222)</p> |
| <p>For LEARN Grants:</p> <p>Eligible entities for subgrants include early childhood education programs, including home-based literacy programs for pre-k children with demonstrated record of providing comprehensive literacy instruction (Sec. 2221)</p> <p>Local applications from entities that support birth through K entry literacy must include how subgrant funds will enhance language and literacy development and school readiness of children from birth through K entry; preparation of staff through high-quality professional development in evidence-based literacy initiatives; coordination with K-12 comprehensive</p>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| literacy instruction; and evaluation of success of activities (Sec 2223 (b))                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| For LEARN grants:<br><br>For subgrants to eligible entities that support K-12 literacy, among other requirements is a description of how the school will coordinate with early childhood programs in the areas served by the local education agency (Sec. 2224 (a)) |  |

### Title III Language Instruction for English learners and Immigrant Students

| Early Learning Obligations to be addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| The State plan must include a requirement that all students who may be English learners are assessed for such status within 30 days of enrollment in a school. (Sec. 3102 (b) (1) (A) and (d) (2).                                                                                       | It isn't clear how the assessment requirement applies to Pre-K students. It would be helpful, however, for the SEA to provide information to educators about assessing English proficiency of young learners. This could possibly be an activity appropriate for funding within Title II.<br><br>The purposes of these State formula grants are to help ensure that English learners attain proficiency in English and develop high levels of achievement. One of the purposes is to assist teachers, including preschool teachers, in establishing effective instructional programs. Another purpose is to promote parental and family participation (Sec. 3102) |
| The State plan must include an assurance that all eligible entities receiving a subgrant annually assess the English proficiency of all English learners participating in a program funded through this grant. (Sec 3102 (d) (2) (B))                                                    | States may reserve 5% for state activities including professional development and technical assistance (Sec 3111 (b))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Among other requirements, local plans of subgrantees must contain assurances that the eligible entity will coordinate activities and share relevant data under the plan with local Head Start and Early Head Start agencies and other early childhood providers. (Sec. 3115 (g) (4) (D)) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

### Title IV 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

| Early Learning Obligations to be addressed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| No real obligations, but many opportunities to provide a broad array of services targeted to students who primarily attend schools eligible for schoolwide programs and the families of those students. There may be grants for charter schools that include pre-K or statewide organizations to provide training and | Services can be offered to young children who will become students in the target area. Local services include parenting skills programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy. States may reserve 5% of the amount |

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| TA on family engagement policies, programs, and activities. Also Promise neighborhoods and Full Service Schools. | for capacity building including training and technical assistance. |
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**Title IX Education for the Homeless and Other Laws**

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| The State’s Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth shall gather and make publically available reliable, valid and comprehensive information on the nature and extent of the problems that homeless children and youth have in gaining access to public preschool programs as well as elementary and secondary schools (Sec 9102 (f) (1) (B)) |  |
| The Coordinator shall coordinate and collaborate with other providers, including specifically child development and preschool personnel (Sec. 9102 (f) (4))                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| The State’s plan for addressing the education of homeless youth, includes a description of procedures to ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs administered by the SEA or LEA, as provided to other children in the State (Sec 9102 (g) (1) (F) (i))                                                                              |  |
| The State plan shall include assurances that SEAs and LEAs will adopt policies and practices that ensure transportation is provided to and from the school of origin at the request of parent/guardian (Sec. 9102 (g) (1) (J) (iii))                                                                                                                               |  |
| Among other requirements, LEAs that receive funds under this part must provide services comparable to services offered to other children in the school. (Sec. 9102 (g) (4))                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| Each LEA liaison for homeless children and youth shall ensure that homeless families and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including head Start services, early intervention, and other preschool programs administered by the LEA (Sec. 9102 (g) (6))                                                                               |  |

\*This document is taken in part from a document entitled “Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): Early Childhood Requirements and Opportunities” prepared by Chris Dwyer, Carolyn Vincent, Kyle Snow, and Carol Cohen of the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center, WestEd, September 2016.

\*\*Comments are items included as “Opportunities for Early Learning Advocacy and Support” in that document.