

1. What specific grant programs do the deadline extensions announced by the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration apply?

- a. All state-funded and federally-funded grants from TEA are issued out of the Grants Administration Division within the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration. The extensions announced apply to all state- and federally-funded grants issued by TEA.

2. Will ESSA programmatic requirements such as updating policies, private school consultation, or parent meetings be waived in our planning process for next year's federal grant programs?

- a. ESSA program requirements that are part of the planning process for 2020-2021 school year are not being waived as of March 27th. However, each TEA program office will make decisions regarding any waivers needed to programmatic requirements when changes or additional waivers are needed.

Your planning process for the next school year may need to be altered based on the current circumstances at the time. TEA will be flexible in compliance reviews if you document your circumstances and try to meet the intent of the law as best as you can at the time.

3. Will there be any flexibility to federal EDGAR regulations around procurements, such as price quotes or competitive processes?

- a. There may be flexibility moving forward, but it is uncertain at this time. TEA is requesting waivers of EDGAR related requirements from USDE. Remember that districts have some flexibility in this area within their local policies and procedures, such as internet searches are allowable for getting price quotes if the search result is documented, and your local procedures allow for internet quotes. If your local procedure does not allow for internet quotes, the federal regulations allow for you to revise your local procedures as needed.

4. Will grants with project end dates between now and September 2020 receive extensions to the end dates?

- a. As of March 27th, grant project end dates have not been extended. TEA will offer as much flexibility as possible and is currently examining all options.

- 5. May an LEA continue to pay salary and hourly-wage staff who are paid with federal grant funds that are 1) on administrative leave, or 2) who are teleworking while the LEA is closed due to COVID-19?**
- a. Per federal regulations, as long as the district has a documented funding neutral local compensation leave plan/policy that is applied consistently to local, state, and federal activities, the costs are allowable. Based on this plan or policy, the LEA may continue to pay federally funded staff with federal grant funds consistent with how they are paying state or locally funded staff.
- 6. Are the time and effort documentation requirements for federally funded staff any different when the organization is closed and requiring teleworking from federally grant funded staff?**
- a. No, the staff should follow the same time and effort documentation procedures as normal.
- 7. Can any of the Hurricane Harvey recovery grant funds be used to support COVID-19 response activities?**
- a. No, disaster relief funds are specific to federal disasters as identified in the federal funding authorizing statute. Please note that we do expect federal stimulus funds for education that will likely be flexible in their allowable uses. Expect additional information in the next 30 days on availability, amount and eligible uses of any federal stimulus funds.
- 8. Do you expect current federal grant allocations to change due to COVID-19?**
- a. Current year federal grant allocations are already allocated and awarded (NOGAs have been issued). It would take federal statute to change the current year allocations. School year's 2020-2021 allocations have not been calculated, but there are no significant changes in the preliminary data received from USDE as of March 27th.
- 9. What potential impact will school closures have on federal grant funds?**
- a. LEAs will receive all flexibilities available to TEA in the use of their federal grant funds. Information on stimulus funding for education is expected in the next 30 days to address COVID-19 needs; therefore, we do not anticipate significant changes to how you expend your current federal grant funds unless the needs of your students and school communities change. After you update your comprehensive needs assessment, you may consider changes to the planned uses of your federal grant funds. Refer to the When to Amend guidance document and submit amendments (by email or eGrants only) when necessary.

District's planning process for the next school year may also need to be altered. TEA will be flexible in compliance reviews if you document your circumstances and try to meet the intent of the law as best as you can at the time. See previous responses in USDE and Grants Guidance FAQ, question 3 (March 20) for further information.

