

For information on general state funding issues please see the **General State Funding FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

For information on ADA, attendance, instructional minutes and enrollment, please see the **Enrollment and Attendance FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

For information on FEMA-related questions, please see the **FEMA FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

Federal Funding and Grants: Section Topics

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[Flexibility and Waivers](#)

1. What if I had expenses associated with my federal grant for services that were cancelled but where certain fees are still charged (travel/conferences/etc.)? **Updated April 14, 2020**

Provided that a subgrantee first seeks to recover nonrefundable costs (e.g., travel, registration fees) associated with a federal grant from the relevant entity that charged the fee (e.g., airline, hotel, conference organizer) grant funds may be used to reimburse unrefunded costs.

Some businesses are offering flexibility with regard to refunds, credits, and other remedies for losses due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many agreements or contracts for conferences, training, or other activities related to a grant contain a force majeure or emergency provision, and the subgrantees must seek to exercise those clauses to the extent possible in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

If a subgrantee is unable to recover the costs, the subgrantee may charge the appropriate grant for the cancellation costs, provided the costs were reasonable and incurred in order to carry out an allowable activity under the grant, consistent with the federal cost principles described in 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E of the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, And Audit Requirements For Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Subgrantees should not assume additional funds will be available should the charging of cancellation or other fees result in a shortage of funds to eventually carry out the event or travel. Subgrantees must maintain appropriate records and cost documentation as required by 2 CFR § 200.302 (financial management) and 2 CFR § 200.333 (retention requirements for records) to substantiate the charging of any cancellation or other fees related to the interruption of operations or services.

2. Is TEA requesting flexibility or waivers from the Feds on federal funding awards? [Updated April 21, 2020](#)

TEA received **approval from USDE** on April 10, 2020, for the following waivers:

- Title I, Part A Carryover Limitation – SY 2019-2020 Title I, Part A funds that become carryover into SY 2020-2021 on October 1, 2020, will be allowed a general waiver to carryover more than the statutory 15%.
- Period of Availability – SY 2018-2019 federal grant funds listed below, that would have ended September 30, 2020, are granted a one-year extension on the life of the funding. These funds will now be available until September 30, 2021:
 - ESSA, Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
 - ESSA, Title I School Improvement (Section 1003)
 - ESSA, Title I, Part B State Assessment Grant
 - ESSA, Title I, Part C Migrant
 - ESSA, Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 Neglected, Delinquent, State Agency Programs
 - ESSA, Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 Neglected, Delinquent, and At-Risk Programs
 - ESSA, Title II, Part A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Programs
 - ESSA, Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition
 - ESSA, Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
 - ESSA, Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - ESSA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 2 Rural and Low-Income Schools Program
 - McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- ESSA, Title IV, Part A needs assessment requirement for SY 2019-2020. This waiver allows LEAs to address newly identified needs without the need to revise their needs assessment.
- ESSA, Title IV, Part A three content area spending set-aside requirements for SY 2019-2020 (including carryover from SY2018-2019). This waiver allows LEAs to expend grant funds as needed.
- ESSA, Title IV, Part A limitation on technology infrastructure costs. This waives the 15% limitation and allows LEAs to expend grant funds as needed.
- ESSA definition of professional development for SY 2019-2020. This waiver ensures online or virtual training is allowable under ESSA grant funding.

TEA will implement these waivers for all subgrantees as long as the two assurances below are met by the subgrantees:

- Subgrantees ensure they will use funds under the respective ESSA programs in accordance with the provisions of all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications not subject to these approved waivers.
- Subgrantees ensure they will work to mitigate any negative effects, if any, that may occur as a result of these approved waivers.

On April 9, 2020, TEA submitted a broader waiver request to USDE under the Secretary's ESSA waiver process. USDE has provided a preliminary response to the following waivers that were **requested**:

- Period of Availability of all federal fiscal year 2018 education grant funds ending September 30, 2020, to September 30, 2021, and all federal fiscal year 2019 education grant funds ending September 30, 2021, to September 30, 2022. This waiver is broader than the USDE expedited waiver and would apply to the State and all eligible subrecipients to provide no-cost extensions to extend the "life" of the funds for an additional year. This will allow the state and eligible LEAs to have more time to expend these funds to meet newly identified needs.
 - On Friday, April 7, 2020, USDE indicated that each office in USDE will address individual flexibility and waivers. As of now the approved waivers for 2018-2019 ESSA programs listed above, and a new waiver for Perkins that is being offered, are the only period of availability waivers that USDE has offered. A waiver for IDEA is expected to be offered soon.
 - USDE also indicated that a waiver to extend the period of availability for SY 2019-2020 funds will not be considered at this time, since those funds have a life til September 30, 2021 already.
- Extend the Liquidation Period for obligations made during the award period for all federal fiscal year 2018 education grant funds ending September 30, 2020, for the State and all its eligible LEAs affected by COVID-19. This waiver would extend the amount of time eligible LEAs had to liquidate federal grant funds for obligations made during the grant period. This would allow eligible LEAs to have more time to receive goods and services that have been interrupted by the pandemic and resulting closures.
 - On Friday, April 7, 2020, USDE indicated that this waiver would be taken care of in the official approval of the expedited waivers above.
- Allowability of uses of federal funds regulations prohibiting subrecipients from paying for services not received. This would allow subrecipients to use federal grant funds to pay for activities and services that were properly procured and then cancelled due to COVID-19 without refunds to the subrecipient. This could include items such as restocking fees when items could not be delivered to the LEA due to closure.
 - On Friday, April 7, 2020, USDE indicated this waiver would require additional conversation, but felt it may not be needed due to flexibility already offered.

3. What types of flexibility are available for federal funding? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

USDE has just begun issuing federal flexibility in the past week and will continue to release flexibility on an ongoing basis.

See the prior questions under Flexibility and Waivers, question 1 under Salary Compensation, and question 3 under Uses of Grant Funds for flexibility issued from USDE.

4. Will there be any flexibility to federal EDGAR regulations around procurements, such as price quotes or competitive processes? [Posted March 27, 2020](#)

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.

5. Does the Title IV, Part A limitation on technology infrastructure apply to COVID-19 related purchases of technology such as internet hot spots? If yes, can this requirement be waived? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The Title IV, Part A technology infrastructure limitation has been waived. See question 2 under Flexibility and Waivers for more information.

6. Any discussion on whether IDEA MOE will be addressed with the potential extra expenditures during and following the pandemic? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

TEA has asked USDE for flexibility and guidance; however, IDEA-B LEA MOE compliance is measured against the prior year's expenditures. The MOE compliance that might potentially be impacted will be calculated in Spring 2021. We expect USDE will say that decisions will be made later after we learn more of the full impact the pandemic has on LEAs. For now, focus on doing what is best for students.

7. Is the Title IV, Part A technology waiver and the waiver for the three areas of allocation extending into 2020-2021 or does this last only until the end of fiscal year 2020? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

As currently approved, the waivers from USDE are for School Year 2019-2020 Title IV, Part A funding only.

8. Now that the waiver for Title IV has been approved there have been questions from districts about how to amend the application. When they try to amend the application, it will not allow them to put more than 15% in the technology infrastructure line or put all of the funds in one of the three areas as the waiver now allows. How do they complete the amendment? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

The eGrants programmers are working to adjust the schedule so that the LEAs can amend. TEA will update this response when that new functionality is available.

Carryover and Application Issues

1. Will there be exceptions for carry over amounts for Title funds and grants? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

See question 2 under Flexibility and Waivers for the list of waivers approved by USDE. The Title I, Part A 15% limitation on carryover has been waived as described above.

For grants that do not have statutory carryover limitations, TEA has flexibility to allow higher percentages than normal.

2. Do you expect current federal grant allocations to change due to COVID-19? [Updated April 21, 2020](#)

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 2020-2021 allocations have not been calculated, but there are no significant changes in the preliminary data received from USDE as of March 27th except for the Migrant Education Program. The ESSA statutory hold-harmless provision in the Migrant formula expires at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The allocation of Migrant funding to the state is decreasing approximately 38% due to this formulary change. The reduction is not related to COVID-19.

3. Will amendments be needed for the LOI or competitive grants, such as the Autism grant, or other noncompetitive grants where the grantee is not able to complete planned activities? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Any time grant recipient is revising the scope or objectives of the grant, an amendment is needed. An associated budget amendment may also be required. However, TEA program offices may have flexibility to make some changes for grantees through the errata process. Check for any erratum and refer to the *When to Amend* guidance on the TEA Grants web site for further information.

4. What potential impact will school closures have on federal grant applications? [Posted March 27, 2020](#)

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.

5. With the flexibility being provided due to COVID-19, do we have the flexibility to amend federal grant applications to purchase technology items so that instruction can be provided to students in a virtual setting, including summer school? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Yes, federal grant applications may be amended, as needed, to reflect changing needs as a result of coronavirus. Also, remember districts already have an allowable 25% variance between open class-object codes within their grant budget if they are not adding items that require specific approval and the new items are allowable with the grant guidelines. Refer to the [When to Amend](#) grant guidance document for more information.

6. If schools set goals around improvement on STAAR how does that affect how they respond to questions regarding meeting SC3001 SMART goals? There may also be more schools that do not expend at least 90% of their planned budgets as indicated on the SC3001. [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Reporting on PR3001 will be suspended for SY 2019-2020 and the SC3001 will be suspended for SY 2020-2021. LEAs should focus on meeting the needs of students at this time, and not be concerned about goals set in SC3001 and data collection in PR3001.

7. What information is available regarding the continued availability of IDEA-B grant funding for the current school year? Is it reasonably assumed that the funds we were granted for the current school year will remain available for use as intended in our grant applications? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Yes. Current year federal grant entitlements are already allocated and awarded (NOGAs have been issued) to LEAs. It would take federal statute to change the current year allocations. We do not anticipate any changes to current year grant awards.

School year's 2020-2021 IDEA allocations have not been calculated, but there are no significant changes in the preliminary data received from USDE as of March 27th.

8. Will carryover funds be reallocated in November/December like in the past, or will LEAs be able to utilize those funds continuously without any wait time for them to be re-allocated to the LEA? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

2019-2020 carryover into 2020-2021 cannot be calculated until after the LEA submits its Final Expenditure Report after the grant ends September 30, 2020. TEA calculates and issues the carryover funds with the maximum allocation in the November/December timeframe; however, the LEA has always had the ability to estimate its carryover and charge against those funds locally until they are NOGA'd with the maximum allocation.

9. What is the amendment process to make changes to a grant application? **Posted April 21, 2020**

Subgrantees are permitted to make certain changes to the approved budget without a written amendment. However, some changes do require the prior written approval of TEA through an amendment. You may refer to the [When to Amend the Application](#) and/or contact the grant negotiator assigned to your ESC region to assist in determining if an amendment is required.

How to Submit Amendments

For “paper” PDF grants, the following pages are required to be submitted for an amendment:

- *Applicant Information* page with up-to-date contact information and current authorized official’s signature and date
- *Amendment Description and Purpose* page with changes identified and briefly described
- *Budget Summary* with changes to the budget included
- All other amended pages of the application affected by the change(s) described on the *Amendment Description and Purpose* page.

Submit noncompetitive paper grant amendments to grantapplications@tea.texas.gov

Submit competitive paper grant amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

Submit LOI paper grant amendments to loiapplications@tea.texas.gov

For eGrants applications, the subgrantee must submit GS2900 – Purpose of Amendment, and any additional schedules affected by the proposed change are required to be submitted electronically using the eGrants system.

Amendment Deadlines

Amendments should be submitted by the Last Amendment Due Date as identified for the grant program on the [Grant Opportunities](#) page. Amendments submitted after the deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis if the amendment is allowable by program statute or regulation.

Amendment Review Process

Amendments are subject to review and negotiation. An amendment, after being approved by TEA, is considered effective on the date it was received by TEA in substantially approvable form.

Once the amendment is approved, subgrantees will receive an email containing the amended NOGA, Supplement to NOGA, and final negotiated amendment. The email will be sent to the superintendent as listed in AskTED, or the authorized official as identified on page one of the application, along with the primary and secondary contacts listed on page one of the application.

For More Information on Amendments

Additional details regarding the amendment process are fully described in the Amending the Application section of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#). For further information, you may contact the grant negotiator assigned to your ESC region.

Required Documentation

1. What documentation will we need to receive reimbursement? [Updated April 21, 2020](#)

Please see question four on the [Coronavirus Costs and CARES Act Funding and Documentation FAQ](#) document on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

2. 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? [Posted on March 27, 2020](#)

No, the staff should follow the same time and effort documentation procedures as normal.

3. How do federally-funded, split-funded hourly wage staff document their time and effort while schools are closed, and the staff are at home? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Per federal regulations, as long as the LEA 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.

Those staff should maintain the same type of time and effort documentation as normal. If that is not possible, the LEA could consider paying the split time based on an average of the last three months documented time and effort records. If an alternative method, such as a three-month average is used, the LEA needs to adopt a policy if it hasn't already.

4. How will the LEA document extra-duty pay for tutors, i.e., teachers outside their normal contracted hours, and tutors at participating private nonprofit schools, when student sign-in sheets are not available? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

To the extent possible the employee will maintain the same documentation as before. Since sign-in sheets will not be available the LEA may substitute other methods of documenting who was in attendance. 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.

Extensions for Grants

1. What specific grant programs do the application deadline extensions announced by the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration apply? [Posted March 27, 2020](#)

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 application extensions announced apply to all state- and federally-funded grants issued by TEA.

2. Will grants with project end dates between now and September 2020 receive extensions to the end dates? [Updated April 21, 2020](#)

The programs listed in question 2 of the Flexibility and Waivers section above have been granted a one-year extension for the 2018-2019 funds that would have ended September 30, 2020.

- Formula grant programs under these fund sources will automatically have the NOGAs extended and the subgrantees will receive an amended NOGA by email reflecting the new end date.
- State level projects funded with 2018-2019 ESSA funds will be reviewed to determine which projects can extend the end dates to June 30, 2021. These project subgrantees will be notified if the NOGA is extended.

As soon as NOGAs have been updated and project end dates are extended, TEA will post a list of those grants and end dates in this FAQ.

3. Due to schools being closed because of COVID-19, will there be an extension to spend funds from the Carl D. Perkins Grant? [Updated April 24, 2020](#)

It will take Congressional action to waive the twelve-month requirement for LEAs to expend the funds. We are told that such a Congressional waiver is being considered. More information will be shared if a waiver is approved.

4. Could you please clarify if the Texas Title I Priority Schools Grant, Cycle 5 scheduled to end 7/31/2020 (funded by PL 107-110 Section 1003g) is granted a one-year extension under the USDE waiver? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

No. TTIPS is funded under old NCLB funding and is not part of the USDE waiver. However, TEA is reviewing other flexibility to determine if an extension is possible.

Salary Compensation

1. 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? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

Yes. Generally, a subgrantee may continue to charge the compensation (including but not necessarily limited to salaries, wages, and fringe benefits) of its employees who are paid by a currently active federal education grant.

Per federal regulations, as long as the LEA 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.

If a subgrantee does not currently have in place a policy that addresses extraordinary circumstances such as those caused by COVID-19, the subgrantee may amend or create a policy in order to put emergency contingencies in place for federal and non-federal funded employees. See also the **FEMA FAQ** section on School Board Policy to Support FEMA Reimbursement on the TEA Coronavirus webpage.

However, an employee who is currently being paid with federal grant funds can't perform different duties, not supported by the grant, while the program grant activities are closed in whole or in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also be paid separately for those different duties.

Subgrantees should consider ways that employees paid with federal grant funds can support continuing activities, including distance learning opportunities for students served by the grant.

2. Can LEAs use federal grant funds to pay employee salaries for staff, who were not previously paid with federal funds, who are now conducting grant responsibilities due to COVID-19?
[Posted April 21, 2020](#)

If the staff are now serving students under various federal grant programs and conducting allowable federal grant activities, then yes, the staff may now be paid with federal grant funds. However, those employees job descriptions must be revised (date the revision) to reflect the allowable grant activities.

Grant Planning for School Year (SY) 2020-2021

1. 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?
[Posted March 27, 2020](#)

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. The district's 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 the district documents their circumstances and tries to meet the intent of the law as best as they can at the time.

2. What potential impact will school closures have on federal grant funds? [Posted March 27, 2020](#)

LEA planning process for the next school year may need to be altered. TEA will be flexible in compliance reviews if districts document their circumstances and try to meet the intent of the law as best as they can at the time.

3. Will grant application deadlines for 2020-2021 be extended? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

School year 2020-2021 grant applications (generally formula grants for SY 2020-2021) have not been extended. That decision will be made closer to when those grant applications are released (normally June).

The grant application deadlines that have been extended are current grant applications that are open for LEAs to apply. Any grant application deadline between March 27, 2020, through April 10, 2020, is extended to April 20, 2020. Current grant application deadlines originally posted for April 11 through May 3, 2020, will be extended two weeks.

4. Is there a waiver being considered for the 2020-2021 ESSA Application process so districts may expedite the planning for 2020-2021 ESSA funding? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Currently there is no plan to waive the 2020-2021 ESSA Consolidated Application. USDE has not offered this level of flexibility. TEA may revisit this question later if the situation changes.

5. With current restrictions on gatherings, schools closed, and people working from home, how do we go about transitioning a Title I, Part A served campus from Targeted Assistance to become Title I Schoolwide for next school year? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The LEA and its selected technical assistance provider may complete the planning process virtually. If the technical assistance provider is comfortable with the planning process, and can sign off on the process, TEA will accept the planning has been completed satisfactorily.

6. As a Title I public school district, I know we are required to reach out to area private/non-profit schools and discuss title I with them if interested. Our informational meeting was set for mid-May, but now that we are in COVID-19 season I was not sure if we are still required to hold the meeting and send out information to interested parties? Do we hold a virtual meeting or postpone until later in the funding year? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The requirements for outreach and consultation with eligible private nonprofit schools remain the same. Virtual meetings are acceptable if the district documents the meeting, discussions, and decisions made. The consultation timeline may be slightly delayed but must be completed before submitting the 2020-2021 application for funding to TEA. TEA will be flexible in compliance reviews if the district documents their circumstances and tries to meet the intent of the law as best as they can at the time.

7. May an LEA use Facebook or other social media and virtual meeting options to conduct meetings which are required by Title I, Part A? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

The required Title I, Part A meetings may be held in a variety of virtual settings due to the circumstances. Document the meeting and those participating as best as you can. 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.

8. How does TEA plan to address carryover of equitable services? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

Under ESSA, carryover of equitable services to private nonprofit schools requires approval from the state. Under the current COVID-19 pandemic, TEA will automatically approve all unexpended 2019-2020 equitable services funds to carryover into the next grant year. The LEA must document the amount of unexpended equitable services funds and include the uses of those funds in the consultation meetings with the private school officials when planning for the 2020-2021 equitable services. However, the LEA should be in consultation with the private school officials now to discuss alternative ways the equitable services might be provided through the end of the school year and this coming summer.

9. With STAAR cancelled, TELPAS not able to be completed, and accountability now waived, we will not have 2020 results to use as part of the ESSA comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) and some of the performance objectives for 2020-2021 district and campus improvement plans. These of course are not the only data used, but the results drive a portion of the plan. Is going back to 2019 as a base okay, as well as using 2019-2020 benchmark data? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

For the required CNA under ESSA and specifically Title I, Part A, the LEA should consider all the data sources that are currently available such as progress monitoring results and other assessment data. The LEA may also need to use the 2019 assessments as a baseline as well. The LEA has some discretion in its data sources for the CNA.

10. When will the entitlements for the 2020-2021 ESSA Consolidated Grant be posted? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

Planning amounts will be available by mid—May 2020.

Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

1. Can any of the Hurricane Harvey recovery grant funds be used to support COVID-19 response activities? [Posted March 27, 2020](#)

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.

2. Can LEAs use federal grant funds to provide hotspots for students without home Internet access or other costs associated with Learning from Home programs? [Updated April 14, 2020](#)

Many school systems around the state are working to expand wireless hotspot locations in communities where free commercial Internet services are not otherwise available. Please document all costs associated with these expenditures, in anticipation that additional funding streams may become available as Congress continues to authorize financial support for COVID-19.

In the meantime, there are many sources of funds currently available to be redeployed for these types of purposes:

- ESSA, Title I, Part A served Schoolwide campuses may use their Title I, Part A funds to provide internet hot spots, technology resources, and other at home learning costs as long as it is identified in the campus comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) as a need.

Note: As long as the LEA has the required supplement, not supplant methodology documented and implemented, there is not a supplanting issue.

ESSA, Title IV, Part A may also be a potential federal fund source. However, Title IV has the traditional rules of supplant so it is only allowable if the LEA has not previously spent state or local funds for the same costs this year or in the prior year.

Other state or local funds may also be used for these types of activities, but keep in mind it may cause a supplant issue for the use of ESSA, Title IV, Part A funds as described above.

3. If a subgrantee is planning future travel under a federal grant, may it purchase travel insurance with grant funds? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, grant-supported travel generally should not be occurring. However, if travel is permitted by federal, state, and local directives and is the only means to carry out an essential grant function that must be undertaken on a time-sensitive basis during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with the subgrantee's travel policy, travel insurance is an allowable cost, provided the cost is reasonable and allocable to the grant consistent with the Federal cost principles.

4. Can activities, services, or technology applications paid with grant funds serve students who are not the intended beneficiaries of the grant program? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

Under most grant programs, no, grant funds may not serve other students who are not the intended beneficiaries of the grant program. Note that some grants may serve all students while other grants only serve a specific student group as identified in the grant statute and program guidelines.

Add to Eligible Uses of Grant Funds Section

5. May Title III funds be used for supplemental pay for districts to have additional assistance with administering the LAS Links Assessment for reclassification purposes? If we are able to

physically report in the summer months, we would like to consider offering supplemental pay for additional testers to support the work associated with administering the LAS Links for students who are potential for reclassification. Posted April 21, 2020

Due to school closures ,the [2019-2020 English Learner Reclassification Criteria Chart](#) was modified to reflect assessment changes. The LAS Links assessment is an option for LEAs to use to reclassify English learners only for the **2019-2020 school year**. The LAS Links assessment is the single statewide assessment that LEAs used to assess for English proficiency as per Texas Education Code (TEC) 29.056.

The following allowable use of funds/options were provided to LEAs to ensure that English learners that have access to their right to demonstrate English proficiency and to reclassify as English proficient during these unprecedented times:

- LEAs can use their local funds or Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to purchase the LAS Links assessments. Also, it would be an allowable expense to use Title III, Part A-ELA funds to purchase additional pre-LAS/LAS Links assessments to be used to reclassify English learners only for **2019-2020 school year**.
- LEAs can score the LAS Links assessments locally or LEAs can choose to send DRC the assessments to be scored for a fee. If LEAs choose to have DRC score the assessments for reclassification, their local funds or Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds can be used to pay for such scoring. Also, it would be an allowable expense to use Title III, Part A-ELA funds to have DRC score the pre-LAS/LAS Links assessments for reclassification of English learners only for **2019-2020 school year**.
- LEAs can pay extra duty pay for teachers administering the LAS Links assessment (to be used for reclassification only for the 2019-2020 school year) using their local funds, Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds. Also, it would be an allowable expense to use Title III, Part A-ELA funds only for the **2019-2020 school year**. Please note: teachers administering the LAS Link assessments should be appropriately trained.

6. Can ESSA funds pay for paraprofessionals to obtain teacher certification? Is there any additional flexibility in this area? Posted April 21, 2020

A portion of Title I, Part A funds may be reserved at the LEA-level for LEA activities. Supporting paraprofessionals to become teachers could potentially be an allowable use of funds when all the programmatic requirements are met. However, Title I, Part A is a campus-based program to meet the identified needs of students so this type of LEA reservation would be limited. A better potential funding source would be Title II, Part A.

To date, USDE has been hesitant to waive the allowable uses of federal funds beyond the flexibility already described in the FAQ document.

7. LEAs and ESCs have asked if a PNP may use Title I, Part A (eligible students) and Title IV, Part A (all students) to purchase laptops/electronics? Hotspots are discussed elsewhere in the COVID-

19 FAQ but not if an LEA may purchase hotspots for eligible PNP students. [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

Under the current pandemic circumstances, ESSA equitable services funds may be used to purchase technology for instructional purposes. The grant funds may only be used to serve eligible students at the private school and all technology must be maintained in the control of the LEA, on the LEA inventory, and monitored for only non-ideological uses.

8. How should an LEA handle a request in April from a private nonprofit school to start receiving equitable services under ESSA programs when the PNP turned down services in the consultation meetings earlier in the year? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

The LEA should politely notify the private school official that the deadline for requesting equitable services for 2019-2020 has passed and that program funds have been allocated to other uses. The LEA must also notify the private school official of the LEAs scheduled consultation dates for the 2020-2021 school year so the private school can be included in equitable services for next school year if they choose.

Note: USDE has in the past supported LEAs in closing the time period for a private school to request equitable services at the end of the fall semester.

9. Do the grant end-date extensions apply to equitable services to participating private nonprofit schools? If so, how does an LEA continue to provide equitable services during school closure? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

The LEA should be in consultation with the private school officials now to discuss alternative ways the equitable services might be provided through the end of the school year and this coming summer. Distance learning is also occurring in most private schools, so the private school official will know the needs of the eligible students. Each case may be slightly different, but the LEA must ensure they are in consultation with the private school officials and meeting the needs of the eligible students.

Specific Federal Grants - Migrant Students

1. When all other LEA monetary resources have been expended, how can Migrant programs use their Migrant funds? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

TEA recognizes the key role that MEP staff play in outreach and advocacy for migratory families, therefore TEA urges MEP recruiters and staff to work to address those needs either directly, or by connecting the families to other available resources. However, the LEA must ensure this is an identified need for migratory children and their families and meets the intent and purpose of the program. Refer to the Title I, Part C Program Guidelines for allowable use of funds and the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook.

2. Can we use Migrant funds to provide migrant students with food and toiletries during the COVID-19 Pandemic? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Under other circumstances, this would not be allowable; however, TEA has forwarded the question to Office of Migrant Education (OME) at USDE asking for flexibility and guidance. Once TEA has received guidance from OME, we will update the answer to this question.

3. If an LEA learns of a new migrant family in the area, how will a COE be completed, if current LEA guidelines prohibit face-to-face contact? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The Office of Migrant Education (OME) at USDE has instructed migrant districts to follow the guidance issued by their state educational agency (TEA) and local school district policy/procedures during periods of restricted personal contact. It is acceptable for the local MEP staff to conduct interviews with migratory families via telephone or video conferencing to obtain the information necessary to complete the Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

Once all the required information is collected on the COE except for the interviewee signature, proceed with the eligibility determination and COE approval process. Add a note to the Comments section of the COE to explain that COVID-19 procedures prevented the recruiter/interviewer from obtaining the interviewee's signature. After normal activities resume, contact the interviewee in-person, add the individual's signature to the COE and update the Comments section. Signatures may also be obtained by mail.

See [this instructional video](#) for information on how to electronically complete migrant forms and use electronic signatures.

4. Districts are distributing books and supplies to students via a drive thru approach. Is purchasing masks, gloves and other health and safety related items with Migrant funds allowable for this activity? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

TEA has forwarded the question to Office of Migrant Education (OME) at USDE for guidance. Once TEA has received guidance from OME, we will update the answer to this question.

5. Several Migrant project districts are teleworking. Are we still encoding on NGS? MSIX? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

If the district allows the staff to continue to work with confidential data while teleworking, MEP staff are to continue to comply with the FERPA requirements as outlined in the NGS and MSIX Oath Forms.

6. With district closures, how will Migrant project LEAs be affected if/when NGS timelines are not met? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Due to the current circumstance, NGS timelines will be re-evaluated and further guidance will be provided regarding the process.

7. What are some ideas on facilitating Migrant transfer of records during LEA closures? Posted April 14, 2020

If the district allows the staff to continue to work with confidential data while teleworking, we recommend that LEA MEP staff continue to use the tools available for transfer of records. These tools include reports found in NGS, MSIX. In addition, the [Texas Migrant Interstate Program](#) (TMIP) can assist with transfer of records.

8. How will Migrant measurable performance objectives (MPOs) be affected by COVID-19? Posted April 14, 2020

Due to the current circumstance, MPOs will be re-evaluated and further guidance will be provided regarding the process.

9. Will the Migrant summer program Project SMART become available as a distance learning program, even if implemented in current school year? Posted April 14, 2020

The intent of Project SMART is a summer program. Due to the current circumstance, the intent and use of Project SMART may be re-evaluated, and further guidance will be provided regarding the process.

10. What tools may Migrant administrators purchase to implement the summer program? Posted April 14, 2020

TEA provides Project SMART as a free summer Migrant program available to MEP-funded LEAs. The LEA may choose other options for summer Migrant services, at their discretion.

11. It was mentioned that we are to see funding decreases next school year in the Migrant program. What decreases can we anticipate? How will COVID -19 affect funding to MEP programs? Posted April 14, 2020

The MEP will see approximately a 38% decrease in funding due to the hold harmless provision in statute expiring starting in 2020-2021. This is an ESSA statutory formula provision and is not an impact of COVID-19.

12. How can we do a Migrant residency verification form on a new potentially eligible child? Posted April 14, 2020

We recommend that Migrant Education Program (MEP) recruiters and other MEP ID&R staff follow the guidance issued by their local school district(s). It would be acceptable for the LEA to allow MEP

staff to conduct these residency verifications with migratory families via telephone or video conferencing to obtain the information necessary to include in the Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

We recommend that the MEP document in COE Supplemental Documentation Form (SDF) section designated for the P2s Turning P3. This information may be used to update NGS records regarding RV. We further recommend that a note be added to the Comments section of the COE Supplemental Documentation Form (SDF) to explain the circumstances that prevented the recruiter/interviewer from obtaining the signature of the person interviewed for this verification. After normal activities resume, if MEP staff can contact the interviewee in-person, we recommend that the individual's signature be added to the COE SDF and the Comments section be updated. At that time, signatures may also be obtained by mail.

13. Has the issue of 3rd year migrant families that were going to migrate this summer, but now may not travel because of COVID-19, been addressed? Is TEA considering an expiration waiver for these families due to circumstances beyond their control? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

This question has been sent to USDE. TEA will provide their response once it is received.

14. Does TEA have specific guidance on MEP Certificate of Eligibility (COE) during COVID-19? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes, a COE guidance protocol has been developed for districts. For more information on the [Texas MEP COVID-19 COE Protocol](#) please see the document located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Waivers, Finance, and Grants](#).

15. Is there a uniform comment that the Agency would like us to write on the Supplemental Documentation Form (SDF)? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

For more information on the [Texas MEP COVID-19 COE Protocol](#) please see the document located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Waivers, Finance, and Grants](#).

16. After normal activities resume, will the COE be acceptable if the parent is no longer in the area for signature? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

MEP staff should get the signature when the parent is available. In addition, the parent can sign and mail the signed COE after normal activities resume. If the family has left the area, then the existing COVID-19 COE is enough documentation to support their eligibility while they were in the district.

17. What does "signatures may also be obtained by mail" mean? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

The parent can be mailed a copy of the COE for their signature after normal activities resume. The parent will then need to mail the COE and COE Supplemental Documentation Form (SDF) back. The signed COE therefore, becomes the auditable copy for the LEA.

18. Are masks and gloves allowable costs with Migrant funds when needed to perform our Migrant responsibilities, such as recruitment and outreach, when we are following social distancing guidelines? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

MEP funds may be used to provide the necessary supplies needed to perform migrant duties. However, the LEA must ensure that MEP funds first be used to meet the identified needs of migratory children that result from their migratory lifestyle, and to permit these children to participate effectively in school. MEP funds must meet the needs of migratory children that are not addressed by services available from other Federal or non-Federal programs and ensure funds are used to supplement, rather than supplant the use of non-Federal funds.

19. Does OME have a Recruiter Supplies List? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

No, OME does not have a Recruiter Supplies List.

20. We understand that MPOs will be re-evaluated. Will copies of the MPO Forms be provided to ESCs for distribution or can we use the same ones from last school year? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes. TEA will be providing copies of the updated MPO Forms.

21. Aside from supplies, materials and resources, can migrant funds be expended on equipment for teachers and students (e.g., electronic devices, MiFi, headphones, etc.) to implement the summer program via distance learning? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes, these are allowable costs, but LEA must ensure that it is an identified need and it is reasonable.

22. If personnel are teleworking and do not have access to formerly completed COEs, can residency verification be documented on a contact log? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes, residency verification in this instance can be documented on a contact log.

23. After normal activities resume, can the recruiter transfer the residency verification documentation from a contact log to comments section of the SDF? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes.

24. ESCs were anticipating guidance from TEA MEP on how to instruct LEAs to complete the Quarterly Report which is Step 3 of the PFS Implementation Process. Will guidance be issued, or will this be placed on hold? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

LEAs should, if able, continue to assess the needs of PFS students and provide services as appropriate and keep documentation locally.

25. Are districts required to conduct PFS Reviews for the second and third quarters of this school year? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

LEAs should, if able, continue the reviews and keep documentation locally.

26. Can districts provide Project SMART curriculum via a distance learning program? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Further guidance will be provided during the Project SMART TOT.

27. Will districts be penalized if they are unable to complete the Project SMART Program for 2019-2020 Summer School? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

TEA guidance will be forthcoming.

28. There have been conversations of the regular school year being extended to the summer and/or the continuance of following social distancing through the summer. If districts had selected Summer Programs on their ESSA Application, will they have to amend? If yes, is there still time for districts to amend their applications? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

Yes, LEAs can amend. See your program guidelines for the last date to amend the application.

29. As families are being contacted, they are expressing that they will be unable to migrate this year due to COVID19. Consequently, their eligibility will be expiring. Is the Office of Migrant Education planning to extend migrant child eligibility for continuation of services as the parents of the affected children are concerned that they need migrant program assistance? NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

This question has been sent to USDE. We will provide their response once it is received.

30. Normally districts keep emails as a form of documentation when coordinating or communicating with stakeholders or other district staff. Due to COVID 19 ordinances, some people may not have a way to communicate through emails so text messages may have been sent. Will districts be allowed to use screenshots of text messages as evidence of required program items? Many districts are using text messaging to communicate because it is more accessible during this time. NEW April 30, 2020

NEW
4/30/20

This mode of communication should be used with caution due to the security of information and confidential integrity of migrant student record data and transference in compliance with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Acts of 1974 (FERPA). Districts should have secure means to maintain auditable documentation to support the program requirements.

31. How are district staff expected to complete the Migrant Progress Review for students when communication is limited, or the Migrant student is not receiving the same interventions as before COVID-19? NEW April 30, 2020

The requirement for a progress review should be met as appropriate. LEAs should maintain documentation that demonstrates their efforts to meet the needs of Priority for Services (PFS) students, as appropriate, during the COVID-19 situation.

Stimulus Funding under the CARES Act

1. Can TEA provide some guidance on the CARES Act and funding for the school districts and paying their employees and contractors? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The CARES Act provides federal stimulus funding to LEAs through grant funds administered by TEA. One of the requirements of receiving the funds is to the greatest extent practicable, to continue to pay employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

2. Regarding the Federal Stimulus Act - Will the funding have the same life span as current Title I, Part A dollars? Can the funds only be spent on COVID-19 expenditures? Will there be a separate application; or will the monies be added to the ESSA application? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

The grant period for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds will be determined by USDE when they award the funds to the state for distribution but is expected to be the grant start date through September 30, 2021, at a minimum.

The intent and purpose of the CARES Act education funding is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

Due to the CARES Act funding having a different funding period, and to be able to develop the application and award the grants quickly, it will require a separate application and will not be a part of the ESSA Consolidated Application for Funding.

3. Are the Federal Stimulus funds, that have been referenced in several of our superintendent conference calls, available for LEAs to receive reimbursement for additional expenses during this pandemic or is there a guaranteed amount each LEA will receive based on their Title I qualifications? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Guidance on CARES Act stimulus funding levels will be issued when answers are available.

4. Can the federal Stimulus funds be used for construction? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

No, although the allowable uses are quite flexible, construction is not an allowed activity under the CARES Act funding.

5. Will any of the CARES Act stimulus funding come to LEAs through TEA's normal grant processes? [Posted April 14, 2020](#)

Yes, one of the sources of funding in the CARES Act will be a grant program through TEA to LEAs. As more information is released on that program by USDE, TEA will post the information on its coronavirus web page. All grant information will also be disseminated through TEA's Grants GovDelivery email bulletins. Official notice of the grant application being available will be distributed through a *To the Administrator Addressed* letter when it is available.

6. What guidance is available on private school services authorized under the CARES Act stimulus funding? [Posted April 21, 2020](#)

While there is a statutory requirement in CARES Act stimulus funding for the LEA to provide equitable services to private nonprofit schools, TEA has not issued any stimulus funding guidance yet, because USDE has not notified TEA of the grant rules or timeline. Further information will be released when it is available.

7. The CARES Act FAQ document, Question 2 suggests that pre-award costs may possibly be allowed back to March 25. We anticipate payroll being paid through fund 266. Each employee has multiple payroll accounts including salary, TRS, Medicare, Federal Withholding, etc. To avoid having to journal voucher the many payroll codes for each employee, could we recode salary now for future payrolls in anticipation of funding? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

Once the CARES Act stimulus funds are available, you may charge additional, allowable costs that resulted from COVID-19 to fund code 266. The CARES Act funding is not intended to replace 1) other existing funds, or 2) costs that were already planned for and budgeted; but rather to address new, added needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. USDE has verbally stated that the CARES Act funding will allow pre-award back to March 13, 2020. That being the expectation, you would be able to charge allowable costs to the CARES Act funding (fund code 266 when it becomes available) starting on that date for these added COVID-19 costs incurred by the LEA.

If you choose to charge salaries (for allowable, added COVID-19 responsibilities), ensure they are new allowable responsibilities caused by COVID-19 and are reasonable, necessary, and allocable charges to the new fund source 266. For more information on charging allowable costs to the stimulus funding, see the [COVID-19 Costs and CARES Act Funding FAQ \(PDF\) April 14 2020](#) document on the TEA coronavirus web page.

8. Will the expense of setting up and using technology to remotely register and enroll students or recruit and hire staff be allowable costs under the CARES Act? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

Yes, it is expected those types of costs will be allowable.

9. What is the timeline for TEA releasing the CARES Act application for funding to LEAs? [NEW April 30, 2020](#)

NEW
4/30/20

It is anticipated that the LEA application will be released by the end of May.