

# ESEA Financial Flexibility for LEAs and Title I Schools



Grantees that receive Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grants may choose to consolidate or transfer funds to create financial flexibilities within their grant programs.

Consolidation and transfer may be available for the following grants:

- 1 ESEA Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs (I-A)
- 2 ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Instructional Quality (II-A)
- 3 ESEA Title III, Part A Supplemental Instruction for English Language Learners (III-A)
- 4 ESEA Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (IV-A)
- 5 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 6 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC)

**Consolidation is a school-level flexibility** that allows schools to pool their federal grant allocations into a single grant program. The consolidated schoolwide program budget combines the school-level allocations of individual grants to fund a schoolwide program plan to implement strategies that address the purposes of each combined grant, and the activities are not limited by their individual budgets.

**Transfer is a local education agency (LEA)-level flexibility** that allows LEAs to move their Title II-A and Title IV-A grant award into another ESEA grant, such as Title I-A, if doing so will most effectively meet the needs of their students. Once transferred, the LEA is no longer considered to be a recipient of Title II-A and/or Title IV-A grant(s), depending on which one(s) the LEA has transferred.

## CONSOLIDATION FOR SCHOOLS

Consolidation can have the following advantages for a school receiving Title I-A funds:

1. **Unified program design:** Consolidated funding for the schoolwide program plan allows school leaders and stakeholders to develop a holistic schoolwide plan to implement the key levers that will raise academic achievement, instead of coordinating the individual plans for separate grants with specific allowable activities and different purposes.
2. **Combined funds:** A single pool of consolidated funds allows school leaders to budget for a single plan, as opposed to matching activities to each stream of individual funds. A school can fund a single high-cost initiative or several lower-cost activities, as appropriate for their schoolwide program.
3. **Simplified Monitoring:** Consolidation simplifies the annual grants monitoring process for schools and LEAs because they are monitored for fewer requirements of individual grants in the consolidated pool.

### Additional Considerations When Consolidating

- A school must be receiving Title I-A funds to be eligible to consolidate other grant funds.
- The school must be operating a schoolwide program model with their Title I-A grant to consolidate other grant funds into the schoolwide program plan.
- The strategies of the consolidated schoolwide plan must meet the intents and purposes of all of the grants consolidated in the schoolwide pool.
- Schoolwide schools with consolidated funds will have simplified monitoring requirements.

### Example: Consolidating Titles and IDEA

In this scenario, the school has opted to use consolidation to focus their schoolwide program plan on improving instruction and increasing student supports for all learners, including students with disabilities. The intents and purposes of each grant are met in the strategies by meeting academic needs of all learners, including students with disabilities (Title I-A and IDEA), improving instructional quality (Title II-A) and providing a safe and healthy learning environment (Title IV-A).

#### School Allocations and Prior Year's Plan

TI \$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Instruction Training: \$50,000</li> <li>• Instructional Coaches: \$150,000</li> <li>• Reading Specialist: \$100,000</li> </ul>
TII \$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservice Week Workshops: \$20,000</li> <li>• Mentor Teacher Program: \$20,000</li> </ul>
TIV \$10,000	Robotics Club: \$10,000
IDEA \$150,000	Special Education Coordinators: \$150,000

#### New Consolidated Schoolwide Program

TI \$300,000 TII \$40,000 TIV \$10,000 IDEA \$150,000	<p><b>Strengthen Instructional Practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Instruction for Diverse Learners Training: \$250,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Leadership Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education Mentor Teaching Program: \$100,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Wraparound Supports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Counseling: \$150,000</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL \$500,000</b>	

## TRANSFER FOR LEAs

LEAs can opt to transfer funds in the following ways:

- If the LEA decides that their educator quality improvement needs are currently met or can best met by the plans of another grant, the LEA may transfer all or a portion of their funds to their Title I-A, III-A or IV-A allocations.
- If an LEA decides that the Title IV-A category needs (well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy schools, and use of instructional technology) are currently met, or can be best met by the plans of another grant, the LEA may transfer all or a portion of their funds to their Title I-A, II-A or III-A allocations.

### Additional Considerations When Transferring

- Prior to electing to transfer their Title IV-A funds to another grant, an LEA allocated more than \$30,000 in Title IV-A funding must perform an LEA-wide needs assessment, regardless of the decision to transfer. If an LEA transfers Title II-A or IV-A funds, it will no longer be considered a recipient of that grant for that fiscal year and, therefore, would not be monitored on that grant.

### Example: Transfer of Title IV to Title III

In this scenario, the LEA's needs assessment indicated that the LEA's new arts curriculum implemented in prior years had sufficiently met the purpose of the Title IV-A program. The updated needs assessment now showed a greater need to improve instruction for English learners. To meet this need, the LEA is now opting to transfer all of their Title IV-A funds to Title III-A and hire a new program coordinator for the English language instruction program to improve academic outcomes for English learners.

#### Allocations and Prior Year's Plan

TII \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preservice Week Workshops: \$25,000</li><li>• Mentor Teacher Program: \$25,000</li></ul>
TIII \$10,000	English Proficiency Software: \$10,000
TIV \$90,000	New Visual Arts Curriculum: \$90,000

#### New Title III Plan to Meet New Needs

TII \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preservice Week Workshops: \$25,000</li><li>• Mentor Teacher Program: \$25,000</li></ul>
TIII \$100,000	English Language Instructional Program Coordinator: \$100,000

## RESOURCES

To learn more about consolidation and transfer for ESEA grantees, the following resources are available on OSSE's [ESEA Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#).

- A schoolwide program plan [guide](#) and [template](#).
- [A guide on the process for consolidating](#) IDEA and 21CCLC grants.
- Instructions on how to consolidate grants in the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS)
  - [IDEA](#)
  - [21CCLC](#)

More information on how schools can use the schoolwide program model and consolidation to support their improvement programs is provided in this document:

- US Department of Education Guidance: [Supporting School Reform by Leveraging Funds in a Schoolwide Program](#) (p. 9-10)

If you have questions about ESEA financial flexibilities, contact your [LEA's ESEA grant specialist](#) or email [Con.App@dc.gov](mailto:Con.App@dc.gov).