

Timeline for Consolidated State Plan Submissions

Background

On March 13, 2017, the United States Department of Education (USED) released a revised template for the Consolidated State Plan under section 8302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of the Consolidated State Plan is to provide stakeholders with quality, transparent information about how ESEA, as amended by ESSA, will be implemented in their state.

Even though a state educational agency (SEA) submits only required information in its Consolidated State Plan, a SEA must meet all ESEA requirements for each included program. For each program that is not included in a Consolidated State Plan, the SEA must submit an individual program state plan that meets the statutory and regulatory requirements of each respective program.

Overview

- ◆ SEAs were required to submit its Consolidated State Plan and/or individual program state plans by either April 3, 2017, or September 18, 2017. USED conducted a peer review following each submission deadline.
- ◆ Consistent with ESEA section 1111(a)(6)(B), SEAs were allowed to submit a request to amend its plan after receiving approval from the Secretary of Education approved a state plan. In the future, USED may update the process for submitting state plan amendments.

Amendments

- ◆ USED expected that each state would revise and strengthen its Consolidated State Plan, as appropriate, to better address the educational needs of children in the state.
- ◆ Prior to implementing any revisions to its approved Consolidated State Plan, states were required to submit its proposed amendments to USED for review and approval.
- ◆ Consistent with the consolidated assurances that each state submitted in June 2017 under ESEA section 8304, prior to submitting any amendment to USED, each state submitting an amendment was required to consult with the Governor on the amendment, provide a reasonable opportunity for public comments on the amendment, and consider such comments.

- ◆ When submitting an amendment to USED for approval, states were required to submit:
 - A marked-up version of the approved Consolidated State Plan, reflecting all proposed changes;
 - A cover letter describing the proposed changes;
 - The signature of the chief state school officer or authorized representative; and
 - A description of how the state provided the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the plan.
- ◆ A state could not implement a change until the amendment had been approved. Therefore, states were recommended to submit proposed amendments to USED as far in advance of the state's desired date of implementation as possible.
- ◆ Any amendments related to accountability determinations for the 2019–2020 school year were required to be submitted by March 1, 2019, in order for USED to determine whether a requested amendment complied with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements in time for the state to implement changes to its accountability determinations for the 2019–2020 school year, based on data from the 2018–2019 school year.

Consolidated State Plan Resources

- ◆ USED has a [site](#) that compiles materials related to ESSA Consolidated State Plans, including the revised Consolidated State Plan template and regulatory information for ESSA.
- ◆ CSAI has developed a [spotlight](#) that includes resources for understanding ESSA Consolidated State Plan requirements and updates on when states' consolidated plans were reviewed and approved.



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