Ohio Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program
Equitable Services (Title IV, Part B)

WHAT ARE EQUITABLE SERVICES (RELATED TO 21ST CCLC)?

Per the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the equitable services provision states these are opportunities/services to be offered to nonpublic school students, within a reasonable proximity, to participate in 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) programming in the area served by the subgrantee (as non-public school students also have the right to participate) – entitled to under federal law.

WHY ARE EQUITABLE SERVICES IMPORTANT?

Meeting the equitable services requirement requires the grantee to provide the opportunity for private school students to participate in the 21st CCLC after-school activities implemented at the public school or offer comparable 21st CCLC activities during the school day in private schools.
PLEASE NOTE: A nonpublic school student's eligibility to participate in 21st CCLC programming is NOT BASED on his or her low-income status or Title I participation; instead, it is based on the *need* of that nonpublic student (for example, the need for academic or social-emotional support). Be sure the program is being operated with fidelity across the board, meaning what is offered to public students is offered to nonpublic students as well.

WHO MUST PROVIDE EQUITABLE SERVICES?

All subgrantees under the 21st CCLC program MUST comply with this provision under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Section 9501 (20 U.S.C. 7881).

PLEASE NOTE:

- There have been NO CHANGES to the provision – all active subgrantees are expected to continue properly consulting with eligible nonpublic schools, **per approved new applications and continuation plans.**

- Traditional LEA and community-based organization subgrantees **must consult** with every nonpublic school for which they have relationships. *Traditional LEAs can find that information on the CCIP's Title I Nonpublic Services page*.

- Community (public charter) school and nonpublic subgrantees that receive 21st CCLC funding **must consult** with eligible nonpublic schools within a reasonable proximity. The applicable subgrantee will decide what proximity/distance is appropriate.

- Traditional LEA and community-based organization subgrantees **are not required** to consult with community (public charter) schools regarding their programs. Non-chartered, non-tax schools, as well as home-schooled students (whose programs have at least five students in attendance), **should be** consulted.

HOW DO 21ST CCLC PROGRAMS IMPLEMENT THE PROVISION?

To do this, per the equitable services provision, applicants are required to begin *timely and meaningful* consultation with applicable nonpublic schools **during the initial design and development** of their 21st CCLC programs. In addition, current grantees must consult applicable nonpublic schools **during the continuation plan/renewal grant period** of their 21st CCLC programs.

PLEASE NOTE: *The LEA is responsible for the provision*. If the LEA is the subgrantee, it should make the contact to the applicable nonpublic schools. If the community-based organization is the subgrantee, it should be sure this happens by working together with the LEA (primary partner) to meet the provision requirement in contacting eligible nonpublic schools.

Consultation ***(which includes in-person meetings with agenda/minutes and/or email communication – for compliance purposes)*** should include the following items, **at minimum**:

a) How the children's needs will be identified;
b) What services will be offered;
c) How, where and by whom the services will be provided (offered services should be listed in your application);
d) How the services will be assessed and how the results of the assessment will be used to improve those services;
e) The size and scope of the equitable services to be provided to the eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel and the amount of funds available for those services; and
f) How and when the agency, consortium or entity will make decisions about the delivery of services, including a thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the private school officials on the provision of contract services through potential third-party providers.

Discussions also should include **the amount of funds available to service nonpublic students**, **size and scope of services provided**, **how and when the subgrantee will make decisions about delivery of services and consideration of nonpublic school views (such as use of third party providers)**.

HOW IS THIS RELATED TO GRANT COMPLIANCE?

Per the ESEA No Child Left Behind/Every Student Succeeds Act Equitable Services Comparison Chart, Section 1112 – each subgrantee continuation plan shall provide assurances that it will:

- Provide services to eligible children from nonpublic schools with timely and meaningful consultation;
- Subgrantees agree to provide equitable services as part of the signed assurances and as a provision under federal law.
- **For compliance purposes, keep track of all documentation sent to nonpublic schools (for example, meeting agendas and typed minutes, email communication, letter correspondence to nonpublic schools and families, program marketing materials addressed to nonpublic schools**) to show **what documentation was sent**, **to whom** and **how it was sent.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LEAs may add a continuing grant to the already required nonpublic consultation. If LEAs choose to include an additional continuing grant to their ongoing consultations, they must ensure proper communication and documentation is being disseminated to all applicable nonpublic schools during that time.

QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding the equitable services provision to Charmaine Davis-Bey at charmaine.davis@education.ohio.gov or (614) 387-0460.