



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

Diana Sirko, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner

To: Title III Contacts
From: Patrick Chapman, Executive Director, Office of Federal Program Administration
Morgan Cox, Principal Consultant, Office of Federal Program Administration
RE: USDE Title III Monitoring Visit and Private School Participation

This memo is to inform you about the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) recent monitoring visit to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the findings regarding private school participation. September 14-17, 2010, a team from USDE visited Colorado and reviewed CDE's administration of the Title III program authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended. As a result of that monitoring visit, some steps need to be taken to bring Colorado into complete compliance with Federal law. The findings and the steps that will need to be taken are listed below. Please note the areas below that are applicable to your district/consortium.

1. The USDE cited CDE for not having a mechanism to collect information on the number of private school English Language Learner (ELL) students served by Title III Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Consequently, CDE cannot determine whether LEAs have provided services to private school ELL children, their teachers and other educational personnel on an equitable basis. This is based on Sections 9501 (a)(1) and 9501 (a)(3) of ESEA.

Resolution: A new data table will be added to the 2011-2012 consolidated application to report the number of ELL students in private schools that participate in a Grantees' Title III grant. Guidance will be given through the USDE monitoring visit overview webinar (January 4, 2011) and through the 2011-2012 consolidated application trainings.

2. CDE was cited for not ensuring that LEAs implement the USDE guidance which states that it is the LEA's responsibility to assist private schools with initial English language proficiency assessment and identification of ELLs if requested by representatives of the private schools. An LEA may use Title III funds to pay for initial English language proficiency assessments for private school students in cases where the use of such funds would not supplant other Federal, State and/or local funds. This is from Section 9501(a)(1) of ESEA.

Resolution: CDE will provide LEAs with guidance that will appear on the CELA Place and Language, Culture and Equity and Office of Federal Program Administration websites at CDE. Guidance will also be provided at the 2011-2012 consolidated application trainings, the USDE monitoring visit overview webinar (January 4, 2011) and at other relevant events. CDE will be monitoring this requirement during onsite monitoring visits to the LEAs. If there are private schools in your district that take part in Title III, they will be included in the onsite monitoring visits.

Please forward this memo to the private schools in your district(s). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Morgan Cox at cox_m@cde.state.co.us or at 303-866-6784.