

The North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, the Office of Early Learning at the Department of Public Instruction and EducationCounsel continue to partner to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and early childhood community leaders in collaborating to incorporate early learning strategies into district plans for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA can serve as one tool available to communities to strengthen their birth-through-eight system and support children's school success.

This document is designed to support LEAs as they develop their ESSA plans. It outlines opportunities throughout the 2021 Consolidated Application to include activities to support young children's development beginning at birth.

In addition to the specific questions noted below, there are opportunities throughout the application to include additional information related to early learning programs and policies.

We strongly encourage district leaders and their partners to understand whether and how funds are being used for early childhood programming (see Title I, Question 9) and to work together on how to address this section through a coordinated community plan.

Please refer to the federal guidance in <u>Non-Regulatory Guidance Early Learning in the Every Student</u> <u>Succeeds Act: Expanding Opportunities to Support our Youngest Learners</u> for additional information and requirements.

We recommend that district leaders review the application and this document with early childhood leaders in their communities to develop a strong, coordinated plan that supports optimal development for all children in the community.

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Title 1A Grant Details		
Local Education Agency (LEA) Plans (SEC. 1112) Local Education Agency (LEA' Plans (SEC. 1112) Local Education Agency (LEA' Clarket Extend on the Release of	Recommendation: Mark "Other" box and detail how the early learning community has been involved in the development of the LEA plan.	
Programme P	 The process for including the early learning community should be ongoing and should complement existing early childhood planning and engagement structures. Partners who should be consulted in the process of developing the plan could include: Head Start grantee agencies, individual program directors, and staff Smart Start agency leaders and staff NC Pre-K Child Care Resource and Referral Exceptional Children Private child care providers Home visiting staff Pediatricians Local health agencies 	
2. Parent and Family Engagement (SEC 11116 (a)(2))	Recommendation: Highlight how the district is working with early learning providers to enhance parent and family engagement by updating the Parent and Family Engagement Policy that is posted on the website.	
	 In the formal policy posted on the LEA website, it would be useful to: Discuss transition plans so that families and their children are supported as they move between early learning settings and school-based programs in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade. Identify a set of effective parent and engagement practices based on Head Start (see, for example: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/pfce-interactive-framework) Recommend that schools hold parent and family engagement activities at times when working families can attend and provide child-friendly activities and food. Encourage parent and family outreach activities that take place during the summer for families transitioning from early childhood programs to school. Require that parent and family engagement resources be available in languages that reflect the community served by the school. 	

S. Parcent and Family Engagement – Use of Funds (SEC 1112) (b)(7)) Perturbation of the second sec	 Encourage schools to support and train family liaisons at each school to welcome new families. Identify parent and family ambassadors to welcome new families and provide information and resources. Recommendation: Mark last box ("Engage in any other activities and strategies") and ensure that parent and family engagement plans include young children and their families.
8a. Homeless Children and Youths Services (SEC. 1112(b)(6))	 Recommendation: Include in this section how preschool children and their families who are homeless are supported. This might include: Training to all school and district personnel and community providers to identify and serve children who are homeless, including working with the local Child Find staff to identify children who are both homeless and in need of early intervention services. Improved enrollment procedures to identify and connect all children (both school-age and younger) who are homeless in a family as they enter school. Transportation for preschool-aged children to stay at their original school of enrollment. Community outreach to identify preschool-aged children who are or are at-risk of becoming homeless. Formal partnerships and/or agreements with Head Start and other community providers to identify and serve homeless children and provide support as they transition into programs and school placements. Policies that require coordination and collaboration within the LEA to support children and their families who are homeless as they transition into programs and school placements and then as they move between grades. Information and resources to families who are homeless on Early Head Start, Head Start, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps), housing supports and other needed supports.
8b. Foster Care (SEC. 1111(g)(1)(E)(iv))	 Recommendation: Provide transportation for preschool children to stay at their original school of enrollment, particularly

Be frame Con (BC: 1111(g)(BC)) Passe list in point of contact from DOS for balant new	 when the child has been taken into foster care (DSS care and placement/custody) or has had a placement disruption (changed foster care placements) and it is in the child's best interest through a Best Interest Determination (BID) meeting. Coordinate the district plan in collaboration with the LEA foster care point of contact. Establish formal partnerships and/or agreements with DSS to serve foster children and provide support as they transition into programs and school placements. Collaborate with early learning partners to ensure foster children are considered and receive priority, as applicable, for enrollment.
Sector Programs (SEC 1112b)(8) Entry Childhood Education Programs (SEC 1112b)(8) Entry Childhood Education Programs (SEC 1112b)(8) Apport. Coordination and Integration of Services in Early Childhood Education Programs Decide how the LEAwill support. coordination and Integration of Services in Early Childhood Education Programs Decide how the LEAwill support. Coordination and Integration of Services in Early Childhood Education Programs Decide how the LEAwill support. Coordination and Integrates Title I services with early childhood education programs. Including plans for the transition of children to elementary school Indicate any large articles and the development of transform plans Pro-R-K Deceptional Childhan Development Children Development Development Children Development Development Childre	 Recommendation: Include any/all efforts by the district to coordinate services for young children with community providers. For "other," consider a range of community partners. Partners who should be consulted in the process of developing the plan could include: Smart Start agency leaders and staff Home visiting staff Child Care Resource and Referral agency staff Pediatricians Local health agencies
Chronik The file of the state of the state of the file of the state of the file of the state of	 Examples of coordination might include: Participating in local early learning committees (such as NC Pre-K, Smart Start Partnerships, Head Start boards or advisory committees, etc.) in order to improve access to high quality services for all children birth to five. Providing resources to increase access to high quality services in partnership with community providers (either in the community or in schools) for all children birth to five, including: Classroom-based instructional programs. Blended programs and/or dual enrollment in school-based and community-based programs. Salaries and benefits for teachers and other staff. Home visiting programs. Extended day programs in Head Start or community-based child care programs. Professional development for early childhood professionals who serve Title I eligible children, including providers in non-school settings.

 Support services, such as nutrition, vision, dental, and counseling services. Screening and diagnostic assessment. Summer enrichment programs for young children and their families that are part of a larger strategy to support young children. Full working day and year-round programs in coordination with local early childhood providers that support schedules for working families beyond the school day. Transition programs.
 information on what children know and are able to do, and create opportunities for partnership, collaboration and innovation. Hold a spring or summer Kindergarten Summit Develop a list of questions to help school and district leaders identify existing transition practices and supports for children moving from early childhood programs into school, and for students moving between kindergarten, first, second and third grades. The answers to these

	questions should be used to develop action plans.
	 Recommendation: Agreements should be tailored to suit the community's unique needs and consider a comprehensive approach, rooted in best practices. The following activities must be addressed in a formal agreement between the LEA and Head Start (for information, see NC's Coordination Guidance). Data and Records Sharing Coordinating Services/ Communication Transition Professional Development Curriculum and Instruction Services for Children with Disabilities Family Engagement
	 Characteristics of a strong MOU/A Identifies the LEA, Head Start, and early childhood programs covered by the MOU Includes a vision, goals and/or purpose of the MOU (the why) Outlines the major activities to meet the coordination requirements Describes the roles and responsibilities of each agency Describes the methods of communication Provides a realistic timeline for implementing the activities Includes implementation and oversight Describes the length or term of the agreement For additional information and resources, see: <u>NHSA New Early Childhood Coordination</u>
12. Reduce Overuse of Discipline Practices (SEC 1112(b)(11)) 12. Reduce Overuse of Discipline Practices (SEC. 1112(b)(11)) Describe how the LEA will support efforts to reduce the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom, which may include identifying and supporting schools with high rates of discipline, disaggregated by each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2).	Recommendation: Ensure that all policies described in this section (including data analysis and policies on in- school or out-of-school suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary practices) include all children in the school from pre-kindergarten on, and that policies are developmentally appropriate for all children at each grade.
	 This section can address: Policies/written plans to severely limit/eliminate suspension and/or expulsion for children in pre-k through 3rd grade with a focus on identifying and

	 eliminating racial disparities among children in these grades who may be suspended or expelled. Identifying and developing in-school resources to support young children who may need additional help to thrive in a classroom environment. Training for teachers on identifying developmental delays or other developmental issues in young children. Professional development to help teachers and other school staff support young children with restorative justice approaches. The NC Preschool Pyramid Model Project, designed to help improve child outcomes and increase opportunities in least restrictive environments, promotes healthy social-emotional development for ALL children birth through five years of age. Use of special spaces in schools that are calming for young children and include time with a counselor, psychologist or other trained therapist. Data analysis that looks at trends in use of discipline for young children from pre-kindergarten through third grade disaggregated by race, gender, and IEP status. 	
14. Targeted Assistance Schools (SEC 1115) 14. Targeted Assistance Schools (please make sure this aligns with ESSR) (SEC. 1115) If operating TAS programs, describe the process for selecting students served (1112(b)(9)):	Recommendation: Ensure that pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-aged students are included in the development of a plan and the selection criteria for students to be served.	
16a. District-wide Instructional Initiative Set-Aside	Recommendation: When identifying district-wide needs for new instructional support or programmatic changes, include the needs of children birth to five in school-based and community settings.	
16b. Professional Development for Teachers Set-Aside Its. Professional brevelopment for teachers Casher you are not esting acide bank for Professional Development for teachers. Tealing acide bank (Line 4 - Professional Covergement for teachers on the Addes page), denote how bank will be used.	Recommendation: Professional development for early childhood teachers includes training related to transition, trauma-informed approaches and social-emotional learning, family engagement, etc.	
Title II-A (PRC 103) Grant Details		
1. Activities (SEC 2102(b)(2)(A) 1.vetties (FC:PR000A) 1.vetties (FC:PR000A) ************************************	Recommendation: Ensure that professional development funds are used to improve the quality of early learning programs in the community and in schools and are available to community providers, pre-kindergarten through third grade teachers, and school and district	

	 leaders to advance understanding of early learning and child development. This section can address: The identification of professional development opportunities that promote coordination with the early childhood community. Training to improve transitions for young children from early childhood to school-based programs. Promoting an expanded understanding of child development among teachers and other school staff and leaders through leadership academies focused on early childhood. Leveraging community resources to increase the availability of joint professional development designed to create common expectations between and across early childhood and school-based settings for children in programs from birth through third grade. Coordination of professional development resources between the LEA, Head Start, Smart Start, NC Pre-K and other providers.
Professional Growth and Improvement (SEC 2102(b)(2)(B)) Provide a description of the LEA's systems of professional growth and improvement, such as induction for teachers, principals, or other school leaders and opportunities for building the capacity of teachers and opportunities to develop meaningful teacher leadership.	Recommendation: Create opportunities for teachers or school leaders working with children in all settings in prekindergarten through third grade to have comprehensive, ongoing knowledge of child development.
	 This section can address: Creation of early learning leadership academies for principals and other school leaders. Development of coaching cadres composed of teachers from school-based early childhood classrooms and community-based early childhood programs to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Development of resources for teachers to understand the content of early childhood experiences before school to help create scaffolded learning opportunities. Use of Early Learning Inventory (ELI) data to develop teaching and learning plans in kindergarten and first grade. Agreements to share cohort information (in line with FERPA) from assessments in early childhood programs.

3. Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement Prioritatication (Sec 2102 (b)(2)(C)) 1. Comprehensive and Trapplet Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102 (b)(2)(C)) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement Prioritation (Sec 2102)(C) 1. Comprehensive and Targeted Biogenet and Improvement and their and Improvement and their and Improvement and their and Improvement and their and Improvement and	Recommendation: Ensure that teachers of children in pre-kindergarten through third grade in these schools are receiving equitable supports.
 Use of Data and Ongoing Consultation to Update and Improve Activities (SEC 2102(b)(2)(D)) Use of Data and Ongoing Consultation to Update and Improve Activities (SEC 2102(b)(2)(D)) Provide a description of how the LEA will use data and ongoing consultation to continually update and improve activities supported under Title II Part A. 	Recommendation: Ensure that data analysis includes teachers of children in early childhood programs, including those in early intervention (birth to three) and preschool special education services, Head Start, Title I, NC Pre-K or other prekindergarten programs in the district.
Title III – Language Acquisition (PRC 104) Grant Deta	ils Page
Parent, Family and Community Engagement (SEC 3115(c)(3)(A) & (B) and SEC 3116(b)(3)) Proved, Family and Community Engagement, (BC. 3116(c)(3)(A) & (B) and SEC 3116(c)(3)(A))	Recommendation: Ensure that parents and other family members of young English Learners from birth through third grade and the providers serving them both in schools and in community settings are included in plans to promote parent, family and community engagement.
 Programs and Activities (SEC 3115(c)(1)(A) & (B) and SEC 3116(b)(1)) Programs and Activities (SEC. 3115(c)(1)(A) & (B) and SEC. 3116(b)(1)) Describe the effective programs and activities, including language instruction educational programs, proposed to be developed, implemented, and administered under the subgrant that will help English learners increase their English language proficiency and meet the challenging State academic standards. 	Recommendation: Ensure that developmentally appropriate programs, resources, and professional development are available for children who are English Learners and their teachers in pre-kindergarten through third grade programs.
	 This section might address: Creation of early learning leadership academies for principals and other school leaders supporting large numbers of young English Learners. Adoption of materials and resources for parents and families of young English learners that are in the appropriate language and can support home-based activities to develop English skills. Partnerships and agreements with community providers serving cohorts of English learners to develop joint professional development, share materials and resources, and design specific transition activities for families of young English Learners.
 English Language Proficiency Assessment and Professional Development (SEC. 3115(c)(2)(A-D) and SEC. 3116(b)(2)) 	Recommendation: Ensure that early childhood teachers within the LEA and community-based providers are included in the design and delivery of professional development.

4. English Language Proficiency Assessment and Professional Development (SEC. 3115(c)(2)(A-D) and SEC. 3116(b)(2))	
The LEA must use funds to provide effective professional development of classroom teachers (including teachers in classroom setting that are not the setting of language instruction education program), principal and other school leaders, administrators, and other school or community-based organizational personnel.	
A. Select all the following groups that will be provided	
classroom teachers (including teachers in classroom settings that are not the settings of language instruction educational programs),	
principals and other school leaders,	
administrators, and	
C other school or community-based organizational personnel.	
B. Describe how the effective professional development that the LEA shall provide to selected group(s) is -	
1. designed to improve the instruction and assessment of English learners;	
designed to enhance the ability of such teachers, principals and other school leaders to understand and implement curricula, assessment practices and measures, and instructional strategies for English learners;	
effective in increasing children's English language proficiency or substantially increasing the subject matter knowledge, teaching knowledge, and teaching skills of such teachers; and	
4. of sufficient intensity and duration (which shall not include activities such as one-day or short-term workshops and conferences) to have a positive and lasting impact on the teachers' performance in the classroom; except that this subparagraph shall not apply to an activity that is one component of a long-term, comprehensive professional development plan established by a teacher and the teacher's supervisor based on an assessment of the needs of the teacher, the supervisor, the students of the teacher, and any local educational agency employing the teacher, as appropriate.	
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Title III – Language Acquisition (PRC 111) Grant Deta	ils Page
1. Activities for LEAs Experiencing Substantial Increases	Recommendation: Ensure that parents and other
in Immigrant Children and Youth (SEC. 3115 (e)(1))	family members of young children in immigrant
1. Activities for LEAs Experiencing Substantial Increases in Immigrant Children and Youth (SEC. 3115 (e)(1))	families and the providers serving them both in
Indicate the activities the LEA will implement to provide enhanced instructional opportunities for immigrant children and	schools and in community settings are included in
youth. Family literacy, parent and family outreach, and training activities designed to assist parents and families to become	plans to support immigrant children and youth.
active participants in the education of their children Recruitment of, and support for personnel, including teachers and paraprofessionals who have been specifically	plans to support initing and children and youth.
trained, or are being trained, to provide services to immigrant children and youth	
Provision of tutorials, mentoring, and academic or career counseling for immigrant children and youth Identification doublement and acquisition of european activities and technologies to be used	
Identification, development and acquisition of curricular materials, educational software, and technologies to be used in the programs carried out with awarded funds	
Basic instructional services that are directly attributable to the presence of immigrant children and youth in the local educational agency involved, including the payment of costs of providing additional classroom supplies, costs of transportation, or such other costs as are directly attributable to such additional basic instructional services	
Other instructional services that are designed to assist immigrant children and youth to achieve in elementary schools and secondary schools in United States	
Activities coordinated with communities-based organizations, institutions of higher education, private sector entities, or other entities with expertise in working with immigrants, to assist parents and families of immigrant children and youth by offering comprehensive community services.	

Title IV – Part A, Subpart 1 (PRC 108) – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE)

1. Consultation (SEC 4106(c)(1))	Recommendation: Mark last box ("Others with relevant
1. Consultation (SEC. 4106 (c)(1)) The LEA has consulted with the following in the development of the Title IV – Part A application: Parents Teachers Principals Other school leaders Specialized instructional support personnel Students Community-based organizations Local government representatives (i.e., law enforcement agency, juvenile court, child welfare agency, public housing agency) Leadership of Indian tribes or tribal organizations located in region served by LEA (where applicable) Others with relevant and demonstrated expertise in programs and activities designed to meet the purpose of this subpart	and demonstrated expertise in programs and activities.") and invite early childhood providers, before- and after- school providers and other social service agencies working with young children birth through third grade to participate in the development of the grant-funded programs.
3. Partnership(s) (SEC 4106 (e)(1)(A))	Recommendation: Partnerships should include at least one early childhood provider. Partnerships could include:

3. Partnership(s) (SEC. 4106 (e)(1)(A)) Describe any partnership(s) with an institution of higher education, business, nonprofit organization, community-based organization, or other public or private entity with a demonstrated record of success in implementing activities under this subpart.	 Provision of high quality, developmentally appropriate before- or after-care programs for young children. Development of anti-bullying programs that are explicitly designed for use with children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Development of drug abuse prevention programs that are explicitly designed for use with children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Implementation of art, music and STEM programs that are developmentally appropriate for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade.
4. Well-Rounded Education (SEC. 4106 (e)(1)(B-D))	 Recommendation: Include how funds are used to support the specific activities for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. These might include: Music, arts, science, and engineering programs that provide scaffolded learning opportunities for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Nutrition education and supports designed for young children such as Farm to ECE, Be Active Kids, or I am Moving I am Learning (Head Start).
5. Safe and Healthy Students (SEC. 4106 (e)(1)(B-D))	 Recommendation: Include how funds are used to support the specific activities for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. These might include: Supports for drug and bullying prevention that are developmentally appropriate for young children. Incorporation of the <u>NC Preschool Pyramid Model Project</u>, which is designed to help improve child outcomes and increase opportunities in least restrictive environments and promote healthy social-emotional development for all children birth through five years of age. Support for restorative justice programs for all children pre-kindergarten through third grade.
6. Effective use of Technology in Schools (SEC. 4109 (e)(1)(B-D))	 Recommendation: Include how funds are used to support the specific activities for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. These might include: Training for teachers and support staff (including before- and after-school staff) in how to identify and

	hardware, with children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.
Migrant Education Program	
II. Supplementary Instructional Services (SEC. 1304(b)(2), SEC. 1306(a)(C)) A. Pre-K (SEC. 1304(b)(1), SEC. 1304(c)(4))	 Recommendation: Include how funds are used to support the specific activities for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. These might include: Increase in enrollment of migrant children in preschool programs. PD for support staff on transition, family literacy, early learning standards, etc. Home services for children not enrolled in preschool programs. Appropriate at home activities for children and families. Summer programming. Developmental screenings for children participating in MEP activities.
Additional Resources:	
Webinar and Materials: Developing or Improvin	g your MOU among Early Learning Partners
LEA/Head Start Coordination Guidance	
Meeting Agendas for Local Collaborative Action	
 <u>Regional Meetings: Using District ESSA Plans to </u> 	Support Early Learning Agenda

- ESSA and Early Childhood: Exploring What's Possible
- Pathways Data Book January 2018
- <u>Research Basis for Pathways Measures of Success Framework</u>
- Fact Sheet on NC's Efforts to Strengthen the Birth-through-Eight Continuum
- Early Learning Requirements and Opportunities in the ESEA and Related Programs
- Policy Levers to Promote Early Literacy in ESSA State and Local Plans
- Planning for the Transition to Kindergarten: Why It Matters and How to Promote Success
- <u>Attendance in the Early Grades: Why it Matters for Reading</u>
- <u>AttendaNCe Counts</u>
- What is Title I Preschool?
- <u>New Early Childhood Coordination Requirement in the Every Student Succeeds Act</u>