

NCLB OVERVIEW OF BENEFITS TO PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

(Excerpted From USDOE Website)

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, provides benefits to private school students, teachers and other education personnel, including those in religiously affiliated schools. These services are considered to be assistance to students and teachers and not to private schools. The reauthorized ESEA requires the equitable participation of private school students, teachers and other education personnel in some of its major programs.

What provisions of NCLB govern the participation of private school students, teachers, and other educational personnel? The Uniform Provisions in Title IX of ESEA, sections 9501-9504, govern the participation of private school students, teachers and other education personnel in most NCLB programs. Three of these programs contain their own provisions, which differ, in some respects, from the Uniform Provisions. These are: Title I, Part A (Section 1120); Title V, Part A, (section 5142); and Title V, Part D, Subpart 6, Gifted and Talented Students.

What does *equitable participation* by private school students and teachers mean?

Local education agencies (LEAs) or other entities receiving federal financial assistance are required to provide services to eligible private school children, teachers and other personnel consistent with the number of eligible children enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools in the LEA, or in the geographic area served by another entity receiving federal financial assistance. These services and other benefits must be comparable to the services and other benefits provided to public school children and teachers participating in the program and they must be provided in a timely manner.

To ensure equitable participation, the LEA or other entity receiving federal financial assistance must assess, address and evaluate the needs of private school students and teachers; spend an equal amount of funds per student to provide services; provide private school students and teachers with an opportunity to participate in activities equivalent to the opportunity provided public school students and teachers; and offer services that are secular, neutral and non-ideological.

What *consultation* is required under the equitable participation provision?

The Uniform Provisions contain requirements for timely and meaningful consultation between appropriate public and private school officials. The goal of the consultation process is to design and implement a program that will provide equitable services and meet the needs of eligible private school students and/or teachers and other education personnel. Consultation between the entity receiving federal financial assistance and private school officials must occur before any decision is made that could affect the ability of private school students, teachers and other education personnel to receive benefits under ESEA and must continue throughout the implementation and assessment

of activities. Consultation generally must include discussion on such issues as: how children's needs will be identified; what services will be offered; how and where the services will be provided; who will provide the services; how the services will be assessed and how the results of assessment will be used to improve those services; the amount of funds available for services; the size and scope of the services to be provided; and how and when decisions about the delivery of services will be made.

In addition, a thorough consideration of the views of private school officials on the provision of contract services through potential third-party providers must take place, and, where the entity receiving assistance disagrees with the views of the private school officials on the provision of services through a contract, the entity must provide a written explanation of the reasons why the entity has chosen not to use a contractor.

What *programs in the No Child Left Behind Act* require equitable participation by private school students and teachers?

- ***Title I, Part A—Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs***

Title I, Part A, provides supplementary instruction by public school teachers or through a third-party contractor to students who are educationally disadvantaged and failing or most at risk of failing to meet high academic standards, and who live in areas of high poverty. Instruction may take place during the school day, before or after school, or in the summer. Title I services may be provided on site at the private school, including religiously affiliated schools, or at other locations. Funds are generated on the basis of the number of children from low-income families who reside in participating public school attendance areas and attend private schools. Private school students who reside within a Title I attendance area and who are failing or most at risk of failing to meet high academic standards are eligible for services.

Services may include a targeted, assisted pullout model, supplementary instruction, direct instruction, computer-assisted instruction, tutoring, counseling, family literacy and early childhood programs. In addition, the law requires equitable participation of private school teachers of Title I students in professional development activities and of parents of Title I students in parent involvement activities. Title I is not governed by the Uniform Provisions; it has its own requirements (Section 1120). Under Title I, LEAs are required to maintain a written affirmation signed by an official for each participating private school that the required consultation has occurred.

- ***Title I, Part C—Migrant Education***

Migrant Education provides financial assistance to improve the education for migrant children. The Migrant Education program is governed by the Uniform Provisions and requires the equitable participation of private school migrant students and their teachers, and other education personnel in schools located in targeted areas.

- ***Title II, Part A—Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund***

The Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund provides assistance for preparing, training, recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers. This program is governed by the Uniform Provisions, but the amount of funding available for services to private school personnel is governed by Section 9501 (b) (3), which requires equitable participation of private school teachers and other education personnel to the extent that the LEA uses its funds for professional development. For the purposes of determining the amount of program funds to be made available for services to private school teachers, the law "imputes" a minimum amount of program funds devoted to professional development as the total amount spent in fiscal year 2001 for professional development under the predecessor Eisenhower Professional Development Program and the Class Size Reduction Program. Activities may include improving teachers' knowledge in the core academic subjects and effective instructional teaching strategies; technology integration training; teaching students with different learning styles; using assessments to improve instruction and student outcomes; involving parents more effectively; and educational leadership development.

- ***Title II, Part D—Enhancing Education Through Technology***

The Enhancing Education Through Technology program provides funds for innovative initiatives to support the integration of educational technology into classrooms to improve teaching and learning. Activities include professional development in technology integration and the use of the Internet; distance learning initiatives; acquiring educational technology; and using technology to enhance parental involvement. This program is governed by the Uniform Provisions and requires the equitable participation of students and teachers in private schools located in school districts where grants are awarded.

- ***Title III, Part A—English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement***

The English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement program provides funds for helping limited English proficient (LEP) children attain English proficiency and meet the same challenging state academic standards as all children are expected to meet. Funds must be used for increasing the English proficiency of LEP children by providing high-quality

language instruction and high-quality professional development. Private school students and teachers whose schools are located within an LEA that receives a subgrant from the state are eligible to participate in this program, as required by the Uniform Provisions.

- ***Title IV, Part A—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities***

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act supports programs that foster a safe and drug-free learning environment. Authorized activities include drug, violence and suicide prevention programs; professional development and training; developing school security plans; conflict resolution, community service and character education programs; family involvement activities; counseling; mentoring; and emergency intervention services. The Uniform Provisions for the equitable participation of private school students apply to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program.

- ***Title V, Part A—Innovative Programs***

Innovative Programs support education reform and innovative school improvement programs to improve school, student and teacher performance. Private school students, teachers and other education personnel may receive professional development, library materials, educational equipment, and repair and minor remodeling or construction of school facilities. Other activities may include community service programs; consumer education; purchase of computer hardware and software; programs to hire and support school nurses; school-based mental health services; programs for cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in schools; and parent and community involvement. The program has its own provisions for the equitable participation of private school students, teachers and other education personnel (section 5142).

- ***Title VI, Part A-Flexibility and Accountability***

Districts must consult with private school officials prior to making any decision that could impact the ability of private school students and teachers from benefiting from programs for which they are eligible. (section 6211)