

## **Frequently Asked Questions Federal CARES Act (COVID-19) Fiscal Waiver**

### **Does this waiver also apply to FY21?**

No, the waiver only applies to FY20.

### **Will I have to apply for the 15% Carryover for FY20?**

No, this fiscal waiver allows the SEA to approve the carryover of LEA funds for all Title I-A funds awarded in FY20 to FY21. There will be no requirement for LEAs to request this carryover waiver. It will happen automatically following the submission and approval of the FY20 Title I-A Completion Report. Please note, an LEA must have an approved FY21 Title I-A grant for FY20 funds to be carried over.

### **Will my LEA still be eligible if I have used the 15% carryover provision within the last three years?**

Yes, this waiver will allow ALL LEAs to carryover funds from FY20 to FY21 due to the unique circumstances of COVID 19, regardless of whether a carryover waiver was requested within the last three years.

### **What does the period of availability waiver mean to the LEA?**

The waiver extends the period of availability of FY19 ESSA funds to September 30, 2021. This waiver allows FY19 SEA funds and LEA carryover funds to be leveraged for a longer period of time, rather than having to return to them Federal Government on September 30, 2020, as would otherwise be required.

### **How does the waiver apply to Title IV-A?**

The waiver now allows LEAs to use their FY20 Title IV-A funds to best meet local needs through waiving content-area minimum expenditure requirements (for LEAs receiving more than \$30,000) and the 15% limit on technology-related purchases. A revision to your FY20 application will need to be submitted and approved to take advantage of this new flexibility. As a reminder, the project period for FY20 Title IV-A ends on September 30, 2020.

### **Since *'needs Assessment requirements'* is checked under Title IV-A, does that mean the Comprehensive Needs Assessment is no longer a requirement?**

No, this only removes the requirement for FY20 Title IV-A for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. LEAs already completed a Comprehensive Needs Assessment process for FY20. This waiver removes the requirement for LEAs to re-do the needs assessment for the specific purpose of leveraging expanded Title IV-A flexibility through submitting a revision to a FY20 Title IV-A grant application. As a reminder, the project period for FY20 Title IV-A ends on September 30, 2020. The Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), root cause analysis (RCA), and Integrated Action Plan (IAP) remain required for FY21.

### **What does the change in the definition of *'professional development'* for SY19-20 mean?**

ESSA changed the definition of professional development for most ESSA programs to reflect activities that are, in part, "sustained, (not stand-alone, 1-day, or short-term workshop)". The waiver allows both ADE and LEAs to now conduct time-sensitive, one-time, or stand-alone professional development designed to meet immediate needs and contexts given COVID-19, such as PD focused on supporting educators providing distance learning. The waiver applies to all ESSA covered programs that reference the ESSA definition of professional development.