

Administrative Memo

Date: April 9, 2020
To: School Administrators
From: Chris Neale, assistant commissioner, Office of Quality Schools
Subject: QS-20-004 – Waiver Request for Flexibility of K-12 Education Funds

On April 6, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) applied for and received approval for a waiver pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). DESE applied for this waiver to allow our agency and local education agencies (LEAs) to better respond to emerging issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The waiver provides the following flexibilities:

1. Title I, Part A Carryover Limitation

- LEAs may ask DESE to waive the 15% carryover limitation.
- LEAs may request this waiver even if they have done so in one of the last two years.

2. Funds Availability

- FY18 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds, including school improvement funds, will be available through September 2021.

3. Title IV, Part A Requirements

- The Needs Assessment requirements for 2019-20 are waived. DESE believes in the value of needs assessments; however, the current situation could not have been predicted when 2019-20 needs assessments were completed.
- Expenses are not required to be tied to findings from any 2019-20 needs assessment.
- LEAs receiving more than \$30,000 in Title IV.A funds are no longer required to spend the minimum percentages in each of the Title IV.A areas: well-rounded education, safe and healthy schools, and effective use of technology.
- LEAs may spend more than 15% of their allocation for technology infrastructure. LEAs' entire allocation may be used on these expenses if necessary.

4. Professional Development

- The definition of professional development has been waived.
- LEAs may now spend federal funds on professional development that is single-offering, time-sensitive and determined to better equip staff to meet the current needs of students.
- LEAs may offer professional development that will equip all staff to better respond to issues related to COVID-19.

More detailed guidance about the waiver will be shared with LEAs soon via the fedpro listserv.

For questions or additional information please contact the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title I, Part A Carryover Limitation• Title V, Part B (Rural and Low-Income Schools)	Kim Oligschlaeger 573-751-8643 Kim.Oligschlaeger@dese.mo.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs including 1003(a) School Improvement)• Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)• Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment)• Title IV, Part A Requirements• The definition of Professional Development (PD)	Julie Cowell 573-751-3468 Julia.Cowell@dese.mo.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title I, Part C (Education of Migratory Children)• Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 (Neglected, Delinquent and At Risk)• Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition)• Title I, Part D, Subpart 2	Shawn Cockrum 573-751-8280 Shawn.Cockrum@dese.mo.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers)	Cindy Heislen 573-526-9761 Cindy.Heislen@dese.mo.gov