May 13, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrator  
Charter School Lead Person  
State Agency Office of Education Director

FROM: Anne Corwell, Director  
Office of Grants Management

SUBJECT: FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices

In preparation for the 2014-2015 school year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is releasing LEAs'/agencies’ Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Formula Subgrant allocations for all applicable programs as listed below on Friday, May 16, 2014. The accompanying attachment highlights details listed on the allocation notices, clarifies specifics on the grant programs, and provides information regarding the application submission process.

The following federal grant programs are included on the LEAs'/agencies’ FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices:

- Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Education Agencies
- Title I, Part D: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund
- Title III, Part A: Grants and Subgrants for English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement
- Title III, Part A: Immigrant

The FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices are available on the NJDOE Homeroom website via the ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices link at: http://homeroom.state.nj.us/. If necessary, district web user administrators can add web user accounts or authorize existing web user accounts for access to the ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices link.

LEAs/agencies will access the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application through the Electronic Web Enabled Grant (EWEG) system at: http://homeroom.state.nj.us/. It is anticipated that the application will be available on the EWEG system in late May 2014.

In an effort to assist LEAs/agencies in developing well considered implementation plans, which support the ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Formula Subgrant, program specific planning information,
nonpublic school documentation, and other pertinent planning documents are available on the NJDOE website at: http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/entitlement/nclb/.

Please be advised that the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application submission due date is scheduled tentatively for **Monday, June 30, 2014**. LEAs/agencies that submit their respective ESEA-NCLB applications in substantially approvable form through the EWEG system by the due date may begin to allocate the ESEA-NCLB funds as of July 1, 2014.

If you have any questions, or require additional information regarding the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices, please contact the Office of Grants Management (OGM) at (609) 633-6974. We wish you success in the development of the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application.

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Attachments

c:  Members, State Board of Education
    David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner
    Senior Staff
    David Joye
    Karen Campbell
    Nancy Curry
    Executive County Superintendents
    Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
    Executive County Business Administrators
    County Education Specialists
    ESEA Advisory Council
    NJLEE Group
    Garden State Coalition of Schools
    New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association
    Advisory Committee for Nonpublic Schools
    Vanessa Davenport
    Sandy O’Neil
    Andrea Sunderville
    File
New Jersey Department of Education
FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Formula Subgrant
Allocation and Program Information

Allocation Notice Explanation:
The summary allocation notice lists the LEA’s/agency’s allocation amount for each ESEA-NCLB program. Individual allocation notices provide details about each allocation as described below.

FY 2015 Formula Allocation
Calculations for each title are based on federal guidance and use projected charter school data. Final allocations for FY 2015 will be recalculated once the actual charter school data is available. Any upward or downward adjustment will be reflected in the LEA’s/agency’s FY 2016 ESEA-NCLB allocation notices.

FY 2015 Charter School Set Aside
These amounts reflect funds allocated to the charter schools and are based on projected data. Final allocations will be calculated once actual charter school data are available. Any upward or downward adjustments resulting from these final allocation calculations for FY 2015 will be reflected in the FY 2016 ESEA-NCLB allocation notices. If a charter school closes or does not open, allocated funds will be reallocated back to the “sending” local educational agency (LEA) and will be reflected in the FY 2016 allocations.

FY 2015 Newly Opened Charter Schools
Allocations to charter schools opening in the fall of 2014 will be made in January 2015 and will be based on actual data as of October 15, 2014. The allocation notices for these charter schools will be available by January 31, 2015.

FY 2014 Allocation Adjustment
These amounts reflect increased or decreased amounts that were calculated in the FY 2014 adjusted formulas. The FY 2014 allocation adjustment amounts are specified separately on the FY 2015 allocation notice and include adjustments from FY 2014 for both the LEA and nonpublic schools.

Total FY 2015 Allocation
These totals identify all funds that are available for expenditure in FY 2015.

Maintenance of Effort:
The FY 2015 Maintenance of Effort adjustments for affected districts are not reflected in the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Allocation Notices. The United States Department of Education (USDE) has given the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) permission to make these adjustments in the next year to provide LEAs an opportunity to appeal, if needed, and to reduce burdensome changes to application budgets. Maintenance of Effort adjustments to the ESEA-NCLB allocations will be made at the time of the adjustments to the FY 2015 allocation and will be shown on the FY 2016 allocation notices.

Important Information:
The FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB project period begins on July 1, 2014. Program activities may commence at the beginning of the project period. LEAs/agencies will receive e-mail notifications through the online grants system when their applications have been received in substantially approvable form. Non-receipt of funds cannot delay the provision of services.
Program Specific Information for Each Title

Title I, Part A:

For LEAs serving Priority and/or Focus schools with Title I, Part A funds, up to a maximum of 30% of the total, Title I, Part A grant award must be reserved for the implementation of the schools’ approved School Improvement Plans (SIPs). All LEAs must complete a SIP for each Priority and/or Focus school. The SIPs must outline the mutually agreed upon interventions and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for which the school, LEA, and RAC team will be held accountable. For Priority and/or Focus schools that are served with Title I funds, upon approval of the SIPs by the Executive Directors of the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs), LEAs will be required to upload the approved SIPs to the ESEA-NCLB application. For Title I Priority and Focus schools approved to operate schoolwide programs, the SIPs serve as the Title I Schoolwide plans. The School Improvement Plan template for use by LEAs serving Priority and/or Focus schools is available on the Regional Achievement Center website at:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/rac/.

For a Title I LEA with Title I schools operating approved Title I schoolwide programs (SW) that are not Priority and Focus schools, the LEA is required to submit a Title I SW plan as an electronic upload to the ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application. Specific information and details on the Title I schoolwide process is available on the Office of Title I website at:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/title1/program/schoolwide.shtml.

If updates occur to the Title I Schoolwide Plan after the ESEA-NCLB application is submitted and approved, these updates must be uploaded as electronic attachments to the ESEA-NCLB amendment application at a later date. The Title I Schoolwide Plan template and forms for the above referenced Title I schools currently are available on the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) website at:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/title1/program/schoolwide.shtml.

In accordance with NCLB §1122 (c) Title I, hold harmless applies to LEAs, depending upon their poverty rates as follows: 95 percent hold harmless for LEAs with a minimum 30 percent poverty; 90 percent hold harmless for LEAs with poverty rates between 15 percent and 30 percent; and 85 percent hold harmless for LEAs below 15 percent poverty. Additionally, adjustments are made for transfers to vocational and charter schools.

Title I allocations are calculated by the USDE based on estimates of the United States Census Bureau data (enrollment and poverty) as required by federal legislation. Please note: Income Year 2010 Census data were used for FY 2015. For LEAs with resident populations of less than 20,000 (“small” LEAs), the NJDOE is using an alternative method (using state enrollment and at-risk data) approved by the USDE. This option reduces the negative impact of USDE allocations on “small” LEAs in New Jersey.

Eligibility for Title I funds is determined on an annual basis. Since actual enrollment and at-risk data are unavailable for charter schools with significant enrollment increases, projections are used to determine eligibility and allocations for these charter schools. After actual data are obtained in October 2014, these
charter schools may become ineligible or have their allocations significantly reduced. Affected charter schools that lose eligibility will be notified of their change in status. Affected charter schools with significantly reduced allocations also will be notified as soon as the impact of the change is determined.

Title I, Part D: State agencies (SAs) and eligible LEAs will complete the specific Title I, Part D program plans as part of the ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application submission. Applicants should use the program plan template (either Subpart 1 Plan or Subpart 2 Plan) located at: http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/entitlement/nclb/. The Subpart 1 Plan is completed by SAs and the Subpart 2 Plan is completed by LEAs. **Please note:** LEAs are required to collaborate with the juvenile detention center in the formulation of the program plan for Subpart 2, which must reflect the mandated formal agreement between the LEA and the facility.

Title II, Part A: For the FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB application, if the LEA intends to budget less than the total amount of funds for professional development budgeted in FY 2002 for both the Eisenhower Professional Development and CSR programs, the LEA must use that FY 2002 amount to calculate the professional development Hold-Harmless amount for nonpublic schools. The FY 2015 allocation notice for Title II, Part A will provide the required nonpublic school percentage.

**Please Note:** According to USDE guidance, developing an evaluation system for teachers and/or principals is not in itself an allowable use of Title II, Part A funds; however, developing such systems that inform decisions on professional development, promotion, retention, compensation, and tenure is an allowable use of program funds. It is important to note that Title II, Part A funds cannot be utilized for the collection of student data or other data collection that is required for the TEACH NJ Act. Please note the following information:

- If the evaluation system is not tied to an allowable, Title II, Part A activity, then the purchase and use of the system is not an allowable use of Title II, Part A funds.
- In all instances, Title II, Part A funds must supplement and not supplant state/local funds (see §1120A (b) (1) IN GENERAL).
- Title II, Part A funds cannot be utilized for student-specific activities (i.e., collecting student data on an evaluation system purchased with Title II, Part A funds).

Given the above, Title II, Part A funds may be utilized for the development of teacher and principal evaluation systems, as long as these systems are integral to the implementation of one or more of the following allowable uses as defined in the Title II, Part A regulations:

- **Section 2123(a)(3)(A)(B):** Permits LEAs to support activities that ensure teachers are able to use challenging State academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, and State assessments, to improve instructional practices and improve student academic achievement. An evaluation system could play a role in such an effort.
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- Section 2123(a)(4)(A) through (D): Permits for the development and implementation of mechanisms to assist LEAs and schools to effectively retain highly qualified teachers and principals. An evaluation system that could feed into a program for teacher and principal retention would be such a mechanism.

- Section 2123(a)(5)(C): Permits LEAs to use funds to reform tenure systems. An evaluation system could play a role in determining which teachers earn tenure.

- Section 2123(a)(5)(D): Permits LEAs to develop, merit-based performance systems and strategies to provide differential and bonus pay for teachers in high-need academic subjects such as reading, mathematics, and science, and teachers in high-poverty schools and districts. An evaluation system could serve as a means for determining which educators were eligible for increased performance-based pay.

- Section 2123(a)(6): Permits LEAs to develop and implement professional development programs for principals that enable the principals to be effective school leaders and prepare all students to meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. An evaluation system could assist LEAs in assessing the professional development needs of principals and could help steer principals toward professional development that addresses such needs.

- Section 2123(a)(8): Permits LEAs to develop teacher advancement initiatives that promote professional growth and emphasize multiple career paths and pay differentiation. An evaluation system could play a role in such an effort.

Title III – Limited English Proficient (LEP):
For the 2014-2015 school year (FY 2014), public schools will receive Title III allocations based on the number of LEP students in PreK to grade 12 reported in the New Jersey SMART (NJSMART) data collection as of October 15, 2013. Nonpublic schools will be allocated Title III services based on the number of LEP students who have been identified for and are receiving English as a second language instruction under the Chapter 192 program as of October 15, 2013. Title III services also will be allocated for nonpublic school LEP students who reside out of state or who are enrolled as foreign exchange students. The nonpublic LEP student enrollment count has been reported by nonpublic schools for the 2014-2015 school year in the Nonpublic School Enrollment Data Collection, and subsequently verified by the public school district. Public school districts must ensure that the nonpublic schools within their jurisdiction identify LEP students and provide Title I services in accordance with federal regulations.

Consortium Requirement: LEAs and charter schools must qualify for a grant of at least $10,000 to qualify for Title III-A funds. If the LEA’s allocation is less than $10,000, the LEA may form a consortium with another district(s) to meet the $10,000 base amount, or refuse the grant award.

LEAs that enter into a consortium must develop a Memorandum of Understanding (sample provided on the NJDOE website at: http://www.nj.gov/education/grants/entitlement/nclb/), or alternative
arrangement that outlines how the consortium will meet the Title III requirements, including the following:

- Ordering and administering the ACCESS for ELLs Test;
- Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs);
- Parental notification to parents of participating LEP students; and
- Participation in an improvement plan if the consortium as a whole, or individual districts within the consortium fail to meet Title III AMAOs for two consecutive years.

The fiscal agent of the consortium is responsible for ensuring that consortium members fulfill their fiscal and programmatic responsibilities as subgrantees under Title III.

Please note: Title III (LEP) and Immigrant allocations cannot be combined to meet the $10,000 minimum requirement.

**Title III Immigrant:**
Title III Immigrant funds may be available to the LEA even if the LEA has less than a $10,000 Title III allocation and declines Title III funds.

In order to be eligible for Title III Immigrant funds, the LEA must report its immigrant students in NJSMART and demonstrate an increase of two percent or greater in the current year’s combined public and nonpublic school enrollment of immigrant students as compared to the average immigrant student enrollment of the two preceding years.

For the 2014-2015 school year (FY 2015), Title III Immigrant funds will be allocated to eligible public school districts based upon the number of eligible public and nonpublic immigrant students reported through NJSMART as compared to the average of the previous two years. Nonpublic school services for nonpublic schools in eligible school districts will be based upon the number of immigrant students reported by nonpublic schools for the 2014-2015 school year in the Nonpublic School Enrollment Data Collection, and subsequently verified by the public schools.
The FY 2015 ESEA-NCLB Consolidated Subgrant Application remains available on the EWEG system. **Please Note:** The application release date is scheduled tentatively for late May 2014, with an anticipated due date of June 30, 2014. Further details on the release and submission of the application will be forthcoming.

- Completed *ESEA-NCLB* applications must be submitted as follows:
  - The *ESEA-NCLB* application is submitted online via the EWEG system.
  - If applicable, Title I Schoolwide Plans are to be uploaded as attachments to the application. In addition, School Improvement Plans (SIPs) for served, Priority and/or Focus schools are to be uploaded to the application upon approval by the Executive Directors of the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs).
  - LEAs must establish their consortium information by directly entering all required data through Consortium Administration.
  - Certified copies of Board Resolutions or extracts of Board minutes must be submitted to the Office of Grants Management if the Board authorization date occurs after the application submission date. This requirement can be satisfied by uploading the information upon the return of the application for revisions.
  - **Please note:** Copies of the signed Nonpublic School Participation Refusal forms now can be uploaded under the consolidated section of the FY 2015 *ESEA-NCLB* application, thereby, eliminating the need to fax or e-mail this nonpublic school documentation to the Office of Grants Management (OGM).
  - **Please note:** the Affirmation of Consultation with Nonpublic School Officials form and the Title I Nonpublic Assurance form are not required to be submitted to the Office of Grants Management (OGM). Rather, the LEA must maintain a copy of these forms in its records and provide copies to the NJDOE upon request.