

Connecticut State Department of Education
April 23 - 27, 2007

Scope of Review: The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of English Language Acquisition, State Consolidated Grants Division conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) April 23 – 27, 2007. The purpose was to conduct a comprehensive review of the CSDE's administration of the Title III, Part A program authorized by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

During the review, the U.S. Department of Education's monitoring team conducted several monitoring activities. The team reviewed evidence of the implementation of the State's Title III accountability system, State level monitoring, technical assistance activities as well as fiscal and administrative oversight activities. During the on-site review, the team also conducted monitoring visits to two local education agencies (LEAs): Hartford Public School District and Bridgeport Public School District to assess the depth and breadth of the State's implementation of the Title III requirements.

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Previous Audit Findings: None

Previous Monitoring Findings: None. This was the first Title III monitoring visit.

Summary of Title III, Part A Monitoring Indicators

State Submissions			
Element Number	Description	Status	Page
Element 1.1	State Submissions: Follow-up on areas identified through desk audit and document reviews	Finding: Further Action Required	7
Fiduciary			
Element 2.1	Reservation and Use of Funds: The SEA has a system in place that enables it to account for: (1) Funds reserved for State administration (2) Funds reserved to provide technical assistance and other State-level activities (3) Funds reserved for immigrant activities, and (4) Funds that become available for reallocation	Fiscal Report Forthcoming	7
Element 2.2	Allocations, Reallocations, and Carryover: The SEA complies with— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procedures for Title III allocations outlined in Section 3114 • The procedures for allocating funds for immigrant children and youth programs as outlined in Section 3114(d) • The reallocation provisions in Section 3114(c) 	Fiscal Report Forthcoming	7
Element 2.3	Supplement not Supplant: The SEA ensures that Title III funds are used only to supplement or increase Federal, State, and local funds used for the education of participating children and not to supplant those funds	Fiscal Report Forthcoming	7
Element 2.4	Equipment and Real Property: The SEA ensures that equipment is procured at a cost and is recognized as reasonable and that the equipment is necessary for the performance of the Federal award. Title III funds may not be used to acquire real property	Fiscal Report Forthcoming	7
Element 2.5	Other Financial Management Issues	Fiscal Report Forthcoming	7

ELP Standards, Assessments and Accountability			
Element Number	Description	Status	Page
Element 3.1	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards: State English language proficiency standards: the State provided evidence of a process that complies with Section 3113.	Reviewed	7
Element 3.2	ELP Assessments: the State provided evidence of a process that complies with Title III section 3113 and evidence that an ELP assessment has been administered to all K-12 LEP students in the State. Accountability through data collection has been implemented.	Reviewed Recommendation	7
Element 3.3	New English Language Proficiency Assessment: The State provided evidence of a process that complies with Title III section 3113. Transition to new ELP assessment or revision of the current State ELP assessment aligned to the State-developed ELP standards.	Reviewed	8
Element 3.4	Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs): AMAOs have been developed and AMAO determinations have been made for Title III-served LEAs	Reviewed	8
Element 3.5	Data Collection: The State established and implemented clear criteria for the administration, scoring, analysis, and reporting components of its ELP assessments, and has a system for monitoring and improving the ongoing quality of its assessment systems. Data system is in place to meet all Title III data requirements, including capacity to follow Title III-served students for two years after exiting; State approach to following ELP progress and attainment over time.	Finding: Further Action Required	8

State Level Activities; LEA Authorized and Required Activities; Immigrant Children and Youth			
Element Number	Description	Status	Page
Element 4.1	<p>State Level Activities: Using administrative funds, the State carries out one or more activities that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development • Planning, evaluation, administration and interagency coordination • Promoting parental and community participation • Providing recognition to subgrantees that have exceeded AMAO requirements 	<p>Reviewed Commendation</p>	8
Element 4.2	<p>Required Subgrantee Activities: The subgrantee must provide high quality language instruction educational programs and sustained professional development activities to all classroom teachers of LEP students (including teachers in classroom settings that are not defined as language instruction educational programs). Training activities must also include principals, administrators, and other school or community-based organization personnel.</p>	<p>Reviewed Commendation</p>	8
Element 4.3	<p>Authorized Subgrantee Activities: The LEA may use the funds by undertaking one or more authorized activities.</p>	<p>Reviewed</p>	9
Element 4.4	<p>Activities by Agencies Experiencing Substantial Increases in Immigrant Children and Youth: The subgrantee receiving funds under Section 3114(d)(1) shall use the funds to pay for activities that provide enhanced instructional opportunities for immigrant children and youth.</p>	<p>Reviewed</p>	9

State Review of Local Plans			
Element Number	Description	Status	Page
Element 5.1	Application: The SEA ensures that its LEAs comply with the provision for submitting an application to the SEA (Section 3116(a)).	Reviewed	9
Element 5.2	Private School Participation: LEAs are complying with NCLB requirements regarding participation of LEP students and teachers in private schools under Title III.	Reviewed	9
Element 5.3	Teacher English Fluency: Certification of teacher fluency requirement in English and any other language used for instruction (Section 3116)	Reviewed	9
State Monitoring of Subgrantees			
Element 6.1	Monitoring: The SEA conducts monitoring of its subgrantees sufficient to ensure compliance with Title III program requirements.	Finding: Further Action Required	9
Parental Notification			
Element 7.1	Parental Notification: Provisions for identification and placement and for failure to meet the AMAOs; notification in an understandable format as required under Section 3302.	Reviewed	10

State Submissions

Element 1.1- State Submissions

Connecticut received Special Conditions as part of the Title III State formula grant award on July 1, 2007. Please refer to the Special Conditions document (copy attached) for a complete explanation related to findings specific to Element 1.1.

Fiduciary

Fiscal Report Forthcoming from ED's Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Element 2.1 – Reservation of Funds

Citation: Sections 3111, 3114(d), 3115, and 3116

Element 2.2 – Allocations, Reallocations, and Carryover

Citation: OMB A-87; EDGAR; 34 CFR 76.722; 34 CFR 80.4.

Element 2.3 – Supplement not Supplant

Citation: Section 3115(g); OMB Circular A-87 (Attachment A)

Element 2.4 – Equipment and Real Property

Citation: OMB A-87; EDGAR 76.533, 80.32

Element 2.5 – Other Financial Management Issues

ELP Standards, Assessments, and Accountability

Element 3.1 - ELP Standards

Reviewed

Citation: Sections 3113 and 3116

Element 3.2 - ELP Assessments

Reviewed: Connecticut provided evidence that it has a process in place that addresses the requirements in Section 3113.

Citation: Sections 3113 (b) (2)

Recommendation: The CSDE should ensure that all LEP students are annually assessed for English language proficiency as long as they are in the LEP category.

Element 3.3 – New English Language Proficiency Assessment

Reviewed

Citation: Sections 3113 and 3116

Element 3.4 – Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

Reviewed: The CSDE made AMAO determinations in SY 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Citation: Section 3122

Element 3.5 – Data Collection

Refer to Element 1.1

State Level Activities; LEA Authorized and Required Activities; Immigrant Children and Youth

Element 4.1 – State Level Activities

Reviewed: The CSDE conducts more than one State level activity in each of the following areas: professional development, technical assistance provided to eligible entities, and the coordination of activities with other programs, such as Title I.

Commendation: Educators and administrators in the State have formed Connecticut Administrators of Programs for English Language Learners (CAPELL), an organization composed of current district administrators of bilingual education and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program coordinators. The focus of this organization is to improve services to English language learners.

Citation: Section 3111

Element 4.2 – Required Subgrantee Activities

Reviewed: The CSDE provides guidance and technical assistance to subgrantees regarding the use of Title III funds for required activities.

Commendation: The impact of the State's guidance and technical assistance was evident at the LEA level. As an example, Hartford Public Schools has used Title III funds to conduct the district's Professional Learning Communities training.

Citation: Section 3115(c)

Element 4.3 – Authorized Subgrantee Activities

Reviewed

Citation: Section 3115(d)

Element 4.4 – Activities by Agencies Experiencing Substantial Increases in Immigrant Children and Youth

Reviewed

Citation: Section 3115(e)

State Review of Local Plans

Element 5.1 – State Review of Local Plans

Reviewed

Citation: Section 3116

Element 5.2 – Private School Participation

Reviewed

Citation: Section 9501

Element 5.3 – Teacher English Fluency

Reviewed: The CSDE demonstrated that it has a process in place for ensuring that the teacher English fluency requirement under Title III is met.

Citation: Section 3116(c)

State Monitoring of Subgrantees

Element 6.1 – State Monitoring of Subgrantees

Finding: The CSDE did not provide sufficient evidence that it has implemented a monitoring plan for evaluating how LEAs comply with Title III requirements.

Further Action Required: The CSDE must develop and implement a monitoring plan to evaluate how LEAs comply with Title III requirements.

Citation: Sections 3113 and 34 CFR 80.40

Parental Notification

Element 7.1– Parental Notification

Reviewed

Citation: Section 3302 (a)