

Summary of Topics & Statement of Assurances for CARES Act Equitable Services

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act requires timely and meaningful consultation between the local school districts and private schools prior to any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private schools to participate in applicable programs. The consultation must continue throughout the implementation and assessment of any accepted programs. This document is to be shared with private school officials at the start of the consultation process. Any party with complaints or concerns about the consultations or about implementation of equitable services may contact the Equitable Services Ombudsman at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction at 984-984-2797.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS FOR CONSULTATION

The following topics must be discussed during the initial and ongoing consultation processes between district and private schools:

1. How the school's needs will be identified;
2. What services will be offered;
3. How, where, and by whom the services will be provided;
4. How the services will be assessed and how the results of that assessment will be used to improve those services;
5. The size and scope of the equitable services to be provided to the schools, the amount of funds available for those services, and how that amount is determined;
6. How and when the agency will make decisions about the delivery of services, including a thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the private school officials on the provision of services through a contract with potential third-party providers;
7. How, if the agency disagrees with the views of the private school officials on the provision of services through a contract, the district will provide in writing to such private school officials an analysis of the reasons why the district has chosen not to use a contractor;
8. Whether the district shall provide services directly or through a separate government agency, consortium, entity, or third-party contractor;
9. Whether, with agreement between the district and appropriate private school officials, the district will pool funds among a group of private schools and provide equitable services to students and teachers in those private schools based on need without regard to how the funds were generated; and
10. When, including the approximate time of day if applicable, services will be provided.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

The private school officials should be aware that the public school district will provide the following assurances to NCDPI:

1. Each district shall maintain in its records, and provide to NCDPI, a written affirmation signed by officials of each participating private school that the meaningful consultation required by this section has occurred. The written affirmation shall provide the option for private school officials to indicate such officials' belief that timely and meaningful consultation has not occurred or that the program design is not equitable with respect to eligible private school children. If the private school official does not provide the affirmation within a reasonable period of time, the district shall forward the documentation that such consultation has, or attempts at such consultation have, taken place to the SEA.
2. The control of funds provided under this part and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property.
3. The educational services and other benefits offered to eligible private schools are equitable in comparison to services and benefits for public school children.
4. Funds allocated to a public school district for educational services and other benefits to eligible private schools shall be obligated in the fiscal year for which the funds are received by the district.
5. Private school officials have provided accurate and reliable enrollment and programmatic information for purposes of allocating applicable federal funds and developing plans for equitable services.
6. Educational services and other benefits, including materials and equipment, provided shall be secular, neutral, nonideological.