PURPOSE/BACKGROUND
Since the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in 1965, school districts have been required to provide equitable services to private school students, teachers, and in some cases, other education personnel, and parents under several federal programs. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) issues this bulletin to provide guidance for private school participation in ESEA federal programs. Although Perkins IV is authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, it is also included in the application for participation in federal programs for private schools.

Find descriptions of the available federal programs in Attachment A. To participate in any federal program, a private school must notify OSPI and the local school district of their intent to participate each year via the Private Participation in Federal Programs application in the Education Data System (EDS). See Attachment B for instructions to log into EDS.
The application will be due on April 15, 2022. An announcement will be made once the application is open.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS RESPONSIBILITIES**

For a private school to qualify for and then participate in federal programs equitable services, a private school must:

- Be a non-profit, elementary, or secondary school approved by the Washington State Board of Education.
- Have notified the school district and OSPI of its intent to participate or not in federal program equitable services by completing and submitting the Private Participation in Federal Programs application in EDS by the due date.

If a private school does not complete the Private Participation in Federal Programs application in EDS by the due date, its students, teachers, and other education personnel are not eligible to participate in equitable services for the 2022–23 school year.

See detailed instructions and responsibilities for private schools on OSPI’s private school webpage.

**DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS**

**IN-DISTRICT PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

For private schools located IN district boundaries, school districts must make initial contact with all private schools to assist in the completion of the Private Participation in Federal Programs application in EDS. Districts must document attempts to contact private schools under the “Contact Log” tab in the application. This contact is not required for private schools located outside the district’s boundaries.

**OUT-OF-DISTRICT PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

The Title I, Part A program requires school districts to provide equitable services to eligible students who attend participating private schools located outside the school district boundaries. School districts must identify if their students attend private schools located outside district boundaries. If the students generate funding for Title I, Part A equitable services, the school district would also be responsible to provide services to those eligible students. See Out-of-District Private School Guidance.

See detailed instructions and responsibilities for school districts on OSPI’s private school webpage.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR

A webinar regarding private school participation in federal programs will be held on February 24, 2022. This training will focus on the requirements and responsibilities of private schools and school districts. To register for the webinar, click here.

RESOURCES

Additional resources and guidance are located on OSPI’s private school webpage under the “Resources for Providing Equitable Services to Private Schools” drop-down menu.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Sheila Gerrish, Program Supervisor, at sheila.gerrish@k12.wa.us; or Julie Chace, Program Supervisor, at julie.chace@k12.wa.us. OSPI’s TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the Bulletins page of the OSPI website.

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Elementary Education, Early Learning, Special Programs, and Federal Accountability

CR:jc

Attachment A: Federal Programs Required to Provide Equitable Services
Attachment B: Education Data System (EDS) Log-in Instructions

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.