



Illinois State Board of Education

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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act *Fiscal Waivers*

The President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides states with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus threat. On April 8, 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) received approval to waive certain fiscal requirements in Titles I, II, III, and IV as well as McKinney-Vento, as provided by the CARES Act.

Illinois Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, that received an allocation under Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 in fiscal year 2020 are eligible for flexibility provided by the approved waivers.

The waiver for Illinois LEAs applies April 8, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

Approved Waivers

- **Carryover of Title I dollars:**
 - ISBE will **waive** the 15 percent carryover limitation for school districts' fiscal year 2020 Title I, Part A funds *even if the LEA had received approval to exceed this limitation in the past three years.*
- **For districts receiving greater than \$30,000 in Title IV Part A funding:**
 - The required Needs Assessment is **waived** for the 2019-20 school year.
 - Content Area Spending Requirements are **removed** (e.g., no more than 20 percent of the LEA allocation for health and safety, no more than 20 percent of the LEA allocation for well-rounded education, and no more than 15 percent of the LEA allocation for technology) for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
 - The spending cap for technology infrastructure purchases is **removed** for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
- **Professional development:**
 - The definition of "professional development" is **waived** for the 2019-20 school year so that timely, one-time, or stand-alone professional development on topics that are germane due to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., remote learning, online learning, distance learning, among others) can be offered.

Questions about the Waivers

1. Do these waivers also include allowances for Perkins and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?

No, only specific provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are waived for Illinois. The waivers received by Illinois are not available for Perkins or IDEA.

- 2. The waiver allows districts with fiscal year 2020 Title I Part A allocations of \$50,000 or more, even those that received a waiver within the previous three years, to roll over more than 15 percent. Is there a cap on the amount of unused funds that may be rolled over?**

There is no cap on the amount of unused funds that a district may roll over as carryover from fiscal year 2020 into 2021. Waiver provisions are not applicable for districts with an allocation less than \$50,000 per year and have had no limitations on their carryover annually.

- 3. Will the increased flexibility in Title IV Part A require a school to amend/complete a new Needs Assessment for the 2019-20 school year prior to spending these dollars?**

No, a school that generates more than \$30,000 in Title IV Part A funding will neither need to amend its Needs Assessment nor complete a new Needs Assessment prior to spending available Title IV Part A funds.

- 4. The caps are relaxed on the three areas of required spending in Title IV Part A. Are there any restrictions to how these dollars are spent?**

Districts may choose to spend their available funds in their areas of greatest need.

- 5. Will requirements regarding transferability of Title funds change on account of the waiver?**

There is no change in the transferability requirements in terms of transferring funds between different Titles or the process through which a district must engage.

- 6. What are the practical differences in the identification and delivery of professional development as a result of the waiver?**

The expectation prior to the waiver was that Title II Part A funds would be spent on required, sustained, collaborative, and intensive professional development. Districts must meet the immediate needs of their educators, so Title II Part A funds may now be used for professional development that is shorter in duration and tied to local needs. The professional development also must be otherwise allowable in terms of content (e.g., professional development for remote learning, online learning, distance learning, among others).

Please submit any questions to illinoiscares@ISBE.net.