



BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

Annual Prayer Certification

Division of Federal Programs and Oversight | Aug. 2024



BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL
HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY
EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE
THEY LIVE

WHOLE CHILD

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC
NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH
FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION
AND BE THE TOP STATE TO
BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER
AND LEADER

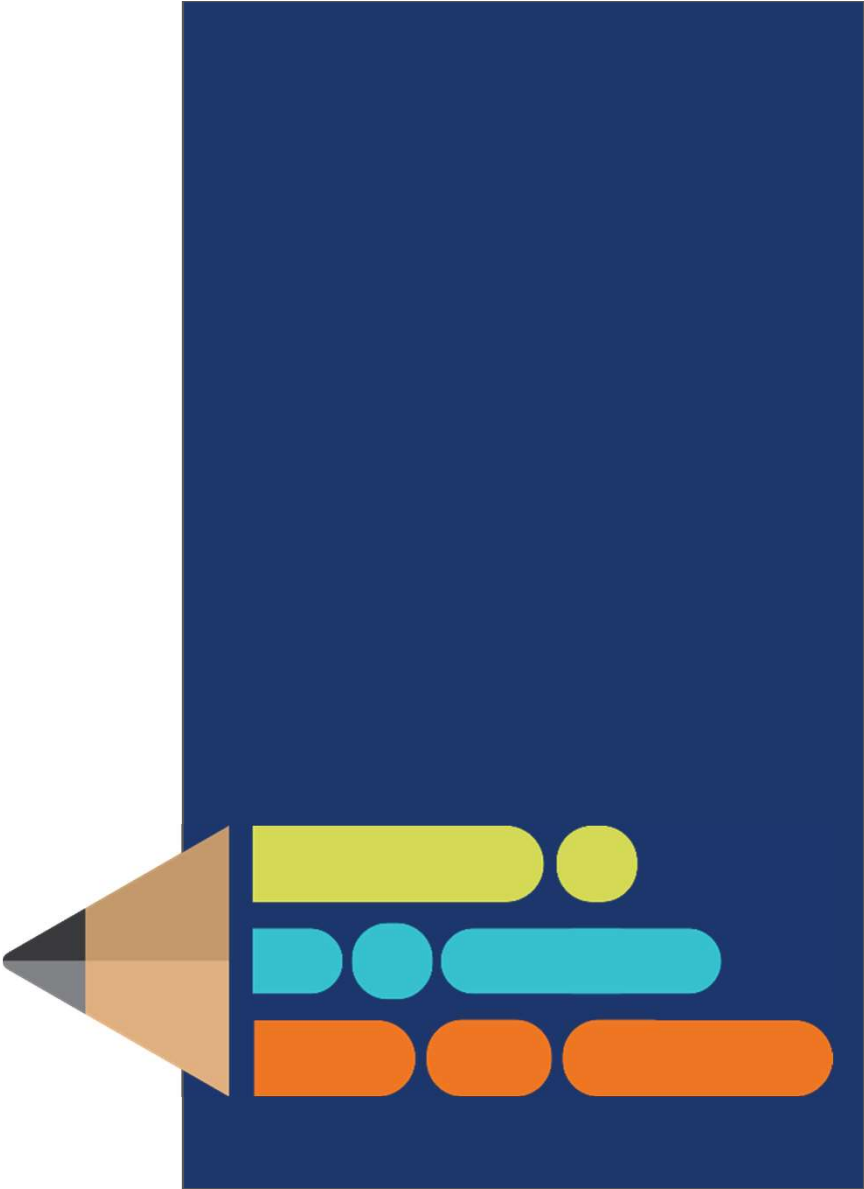


Agenda

- Overview of the Prayer Certification
- Walkthrough of the Prayer Certification Application in ePlan
- Timeline Review
- Technical Assistance

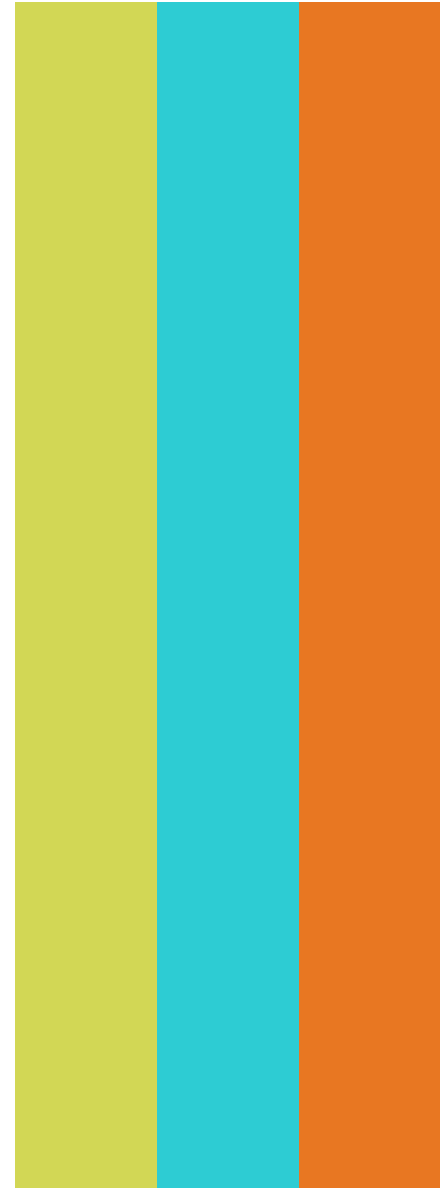


Overview of the Prayer Certification

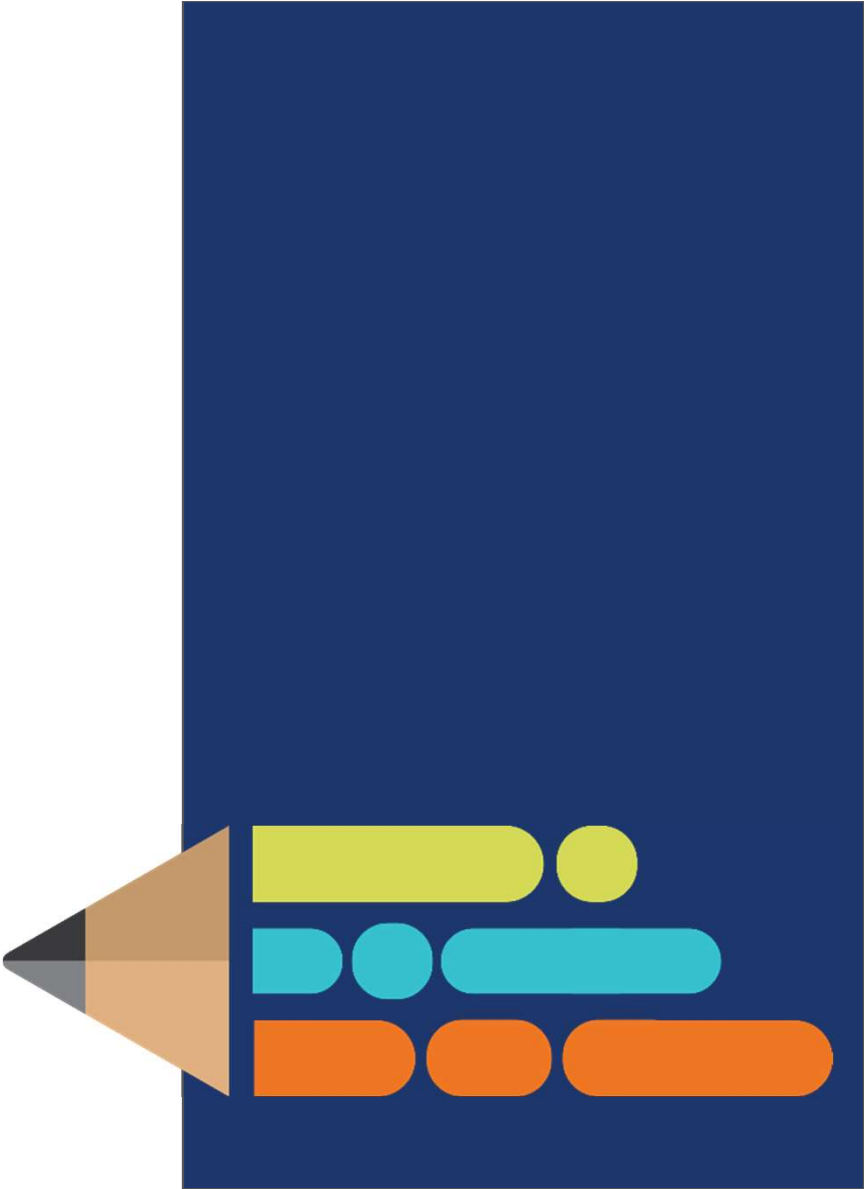


Purpose

- ESEA § 9524(b) requires that, as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, an LEA must certify in writing to its SEA that **it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.**

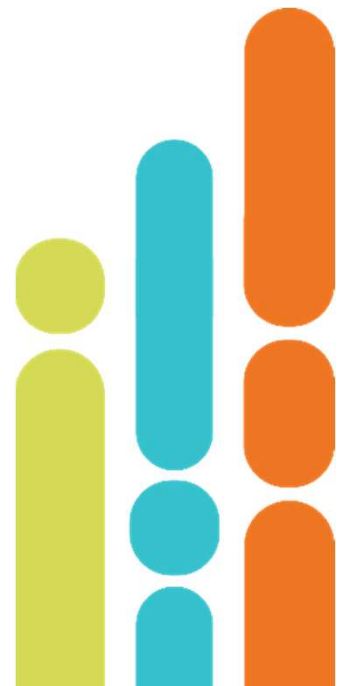


Prayer Certification Report

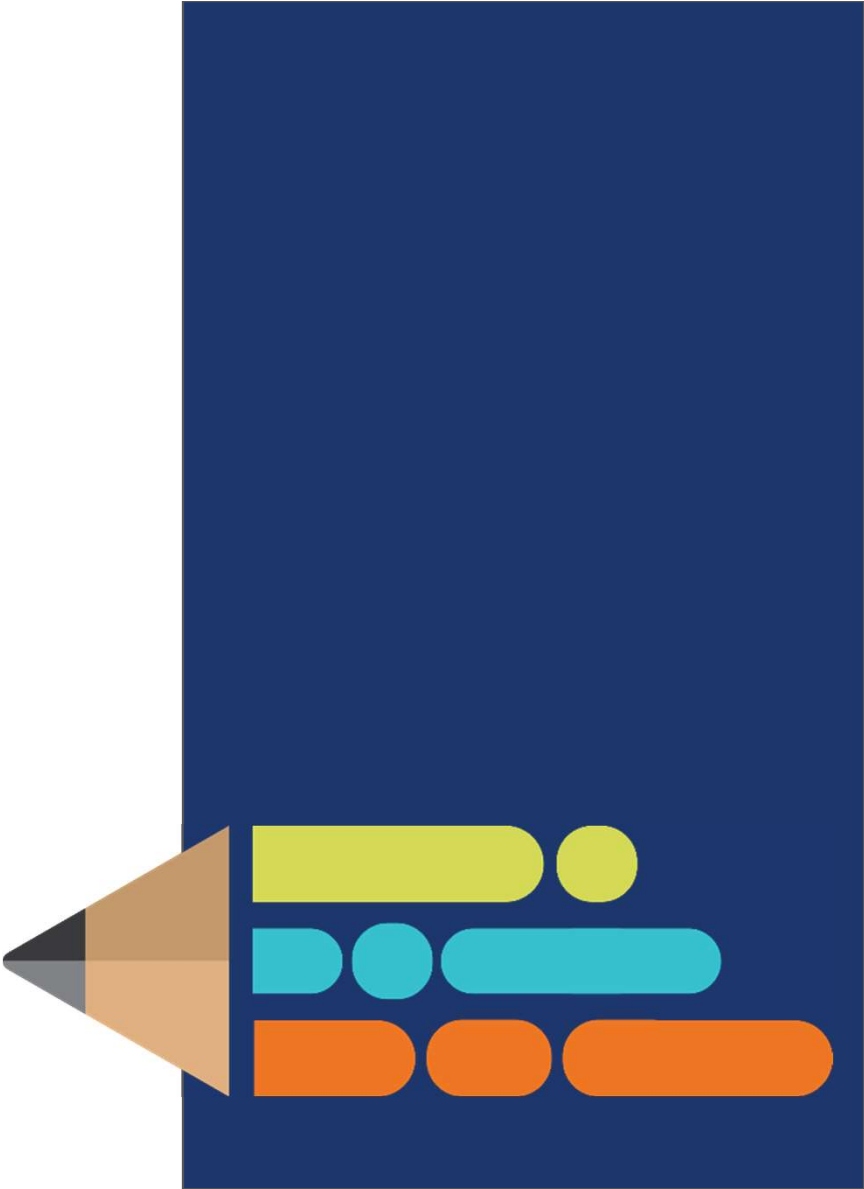


Rationale for Prayer Certification embedded in ePlan

- The Prayer Certification Report is a simplified process for LEAs with no required uploads.
- The department will be able to access data quickly for reporting purposes to the U.S. Department of Education.



How to Navigate the Platform



Prayer Certification

- To navigate to the Prayer Certification supplement from the ePlan homepage, hover your mouse over the data and Information tab on the left menu bar, and select **Data and Information**.
- Select the desired current fiscal year in the upper left corner of the screen.
- The LEA user with the **LEA Authorized Representative** role may click **Draft Started**.

HL6
HL7

Reports
Inbox
Planning
Monitoring
Funding
Data and Information
Reimbursement Requests
Project Summary
LEA Document Library
Address Book
TDOE Resources
Help for Current Page

Announcements
2024 Federal Program Information
The Division of Federal Programs Institute on State and Local Government in Chattanooga, TN, TN
Disabilities Act (IDEA), Relief (ESSER) funding
The conference will be individual slots for after individual slots. Lunch There will be no hotel t
Please follow [this link](#) to computer for optimal vi

Data and Information

2025 ▾ Active ▾

Data and Information

Sections

Application Status: Not Started

Change Status To: **Draft Started**

Slide 9

- HL6** completed
Henry LaFollette, 8/6/2020
- HL7** [@Kate Smitheal]
Henry LaFollette, 8/6/2020

Prayer Certification

- Access each individual page of the **Prayer Certification** from the **Sections Page**.
- Select the **Prayer Certification** page to complete the questions

Status: Draft Started

Change Status To: [Submitted](#)

Description ([View Sections Only](#) [View All Pages](#))

All

History Log

[History Log](#)

[Create Comment](#)

Prayer Certification

[Prayer Certification](#)

All

Description ([View Sections Only](#) [View All Pages](#))

All

History Log

[History Log](#)

[Create Comment](#)

Prayer Certification

[Prayer Certification](#)

All

Prayer Certification

* As a condition of receiving funds under ESEA, Title VII, Part F, Subpart 2 Section 9524 concerning protected prayer in public schools, each Local Education Agency (LEA) must certify in writing to the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) that no policy of the LEA prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools.

- No district policy prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools as set forth in the guidance related to ESSA, Title VII, Part F, Subpart 2 Section 9524.
- A district policy prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools as set forth in the guidance related to ESSA, Title VII, Part F, Subpart 2 Section 9524.

Prayer Certification

* Please indicate in the box below if your district has received complaints related to constitutionally protected prayer.

No

If Yes, please provide a description of what investigation or enforcement action has been initiated and the status of the investigation or action.

Check Spelling

0 of 8000 characters

Prayer Certification

- Once the **LEA Authorized Representative** has completed the questions, Change the status on the **Sections** page to **Submitted**.

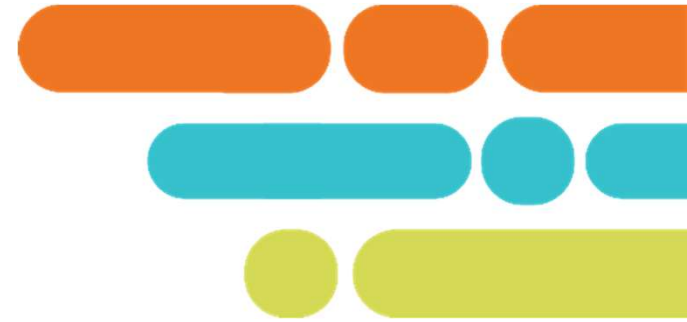
Status:	Revision Started
Change Status To:	<u>Submitted</u>

Resources and Technical Assistance



Timeline

- **Aug.** : Prayer Certification opens in ePlan
- **Oct. 1:** Prayer Certification due in ePlan



Resources

- Several helpful resources are available in *ePlan > TDOE Resources > Data and Information Tool > Prayer Certification*.
- Resources include:
 - Slide deck
 - Recorded webinar
 - TDOE guidance document
 - ED guidance document



FPO Divisional Coordinator Map



West

ESEA: Lynn Dotson
IDEA: Michelle Mansfield

Middle

ESEA: Alisha Gilmore
IDEA: Tracey Jones

East

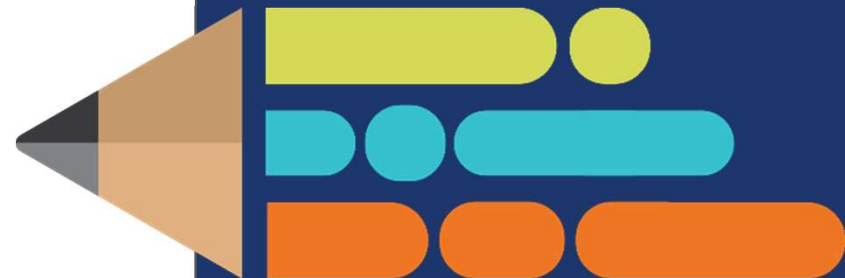
ESEA: Henry LaFollette
IDEA: Melanie Lamberson

20 Districts with Largest Enrollment

ESEA: Heather Farley
IDEA: Jamie Eldridge

Contact information

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- **Lynn Dotson** | West FPO Divisional Coordinator
Lynn.Dotson@tn.gov



Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Citizens and agencies are encouraged to report fraud, waste, or abuse in State and Local government.

NOTICE: This agency is a recipient of taxpayer funding. If you observe an agency director or employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal, improper or wasteful, please call the state Comptroller's toll-free Hotline:

1-800-232-5454

Notifications can also be submitted electronically at:

<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline>