

Consolidated School-Wide Pool Overview

Opportunity Overview

Consolidating funds in a School-Wide Pool allows the school to combine financial resources as a single “pool” of funds. As authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Consolidated School-Wide Pools provides an alternative means to better serve all children in a school by coordinating instructional programs and consolidating financial resources rather than operating categorical programs as separate services, and ensures that all students, particularly those who are low achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on the state’s academic achievement standards [ESEA 1114(a)(1)]. The funds from the contributing programs at the site level lose their identity and the school has one flexible pool of funds. The school uses funds from this consolidated School-wide Pool to upgrade the entire educational program and meet the federal grant programs’ intent and purposes included in the consolidation.

Funds Eligible for Consolidation

Option 1: Consolidate Only Federal Funds

Here, LEAs consolidate only federal funds into a single federal consolidated pool. Funds within that pool must be treated as federal funds, but the district does not need to track an expenditure back to the specific federal program that contributed the funds. From an accounting perspective, the funds from the contributing federal programs lose their individual program identity when they become part of a consolidated school-wide pool and are accounted for as part of that pool rather than unique programs.

When federal funds are consolidated, the school-wide program school does not need to meet most of the federal programs’ statutory and regulatory requirements of the consolidated federal program as long as it meets and can demonstrate that it meets the intended purposes of those programs.

Option 2: Consolidate Federal, State, and Local Funds

This scenario offers the greatest extent of flexibility. Federal, state, and local funds are combined in a school-wide program; the federal funds that have been consolidated lose their identity as federal funds. Under this option, funds are considered to be “mixed together,” Therefore, there is no way to identify a federal dollar from a state or local dollar. This means that the school-wide program is not required to maintain separate fiscal accounting records by identifying the specific activities supported by those particular funds.

The following federal education program funds may be consolidated in a school-wide program.

Grant Funds	Yes	No	Notes
Title I, Part A	✓		
Title I, Part C	✓		With special restrictions, see here .
Title II, Part A	✓		
Title III, Part A	✓		
Title IV, Part A	✓		
Title IV, Part B	✓		
Perkins	✓		
IDEA	✓		Programmatic protections for students with disabilities must still be maintained
State	✓		
School Lunch		✓	
Head Start		✓	

Note: The authority to consolidate funding extends only to funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

Consolidated School-Wide Pool Requirements

- Increased emphasis on a high-quality school-wide school improvement plan based on a thorough comprehensive needs assessment.
- A solid site-level planning and decision-making process evidenced in the school-wide plan and required consolidation documentation.
- Strong internal fiscal and programmatic controls.