

2025
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MEMPHIS ★
TO
★ **BRISTOL**

Federal Programs
Driving Local Change

Flex with Federal Muscle: Consolidating Federal Funds

Lynn Dotson | West ESSA Consultant
Distinguished Panel:

- **Theresa McCormick**, Hardin County
- **Greg Scott**, Milan SSD
- **Ladona Herrin**, McKenzie SSD
- **Allison Smith**, Crockett County
- **Dr. Stacey Alexander**, Haywood County
- **Megan Mysinger**, TDOE

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Agenda

- Who are you?
- School Pool / Funding Consolidation Overview
- Pool Rules
(You can run, and you can dive!)
- Activity
- Spotlight LEAs / Panel Discussion



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Who Are You?

Let's See Who You Are!

- You are a local education agency (LEA) that braids your funds.
- You are an LEA that braids and transfers funds from one grant to another (micro-blend or micro-pool).
- You are an LEA that consolidates/school pool funds.
- You are an LEA that braids only your hair.



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School Pool/Funding Consolidation Overview

Overview of Consolidation (pool)

- Schools that receive Title I, Part A (Title I) funds use the funds to operate either a schoolwide program or a targeted assistance program.
- To encourage a more comprehensive reform strategy by leveraging all available funding, Title I schools that are in a schoolwide program have the flexibility to consolidate funds from Title I and other federal education programs with State and local funds.



ESEA § 1114(a)(1)(A), (3)

Consolidation of Funds: Intent and Purpose

Schools that consolidate:

- “Grants lose their individual identity” and **are not required** to meet **most** statutory or regulatory requirements of the grant applicable at the school level.
- **Must** meet the intent and purposes of consolidated grants to ensure the needs of the **intended beneficiaries** (subgroups) are met.
- **Must** maintain records that demonstrate the intent and purpose has been met for each consolidated Federal grant,

ESSA § 1114(a)(3)(A)





“

“By making systemic changes that knit together services funded from a variety of sources into a comprehensive framework, schools have a better chance of increasing the academic achievement of all students.”

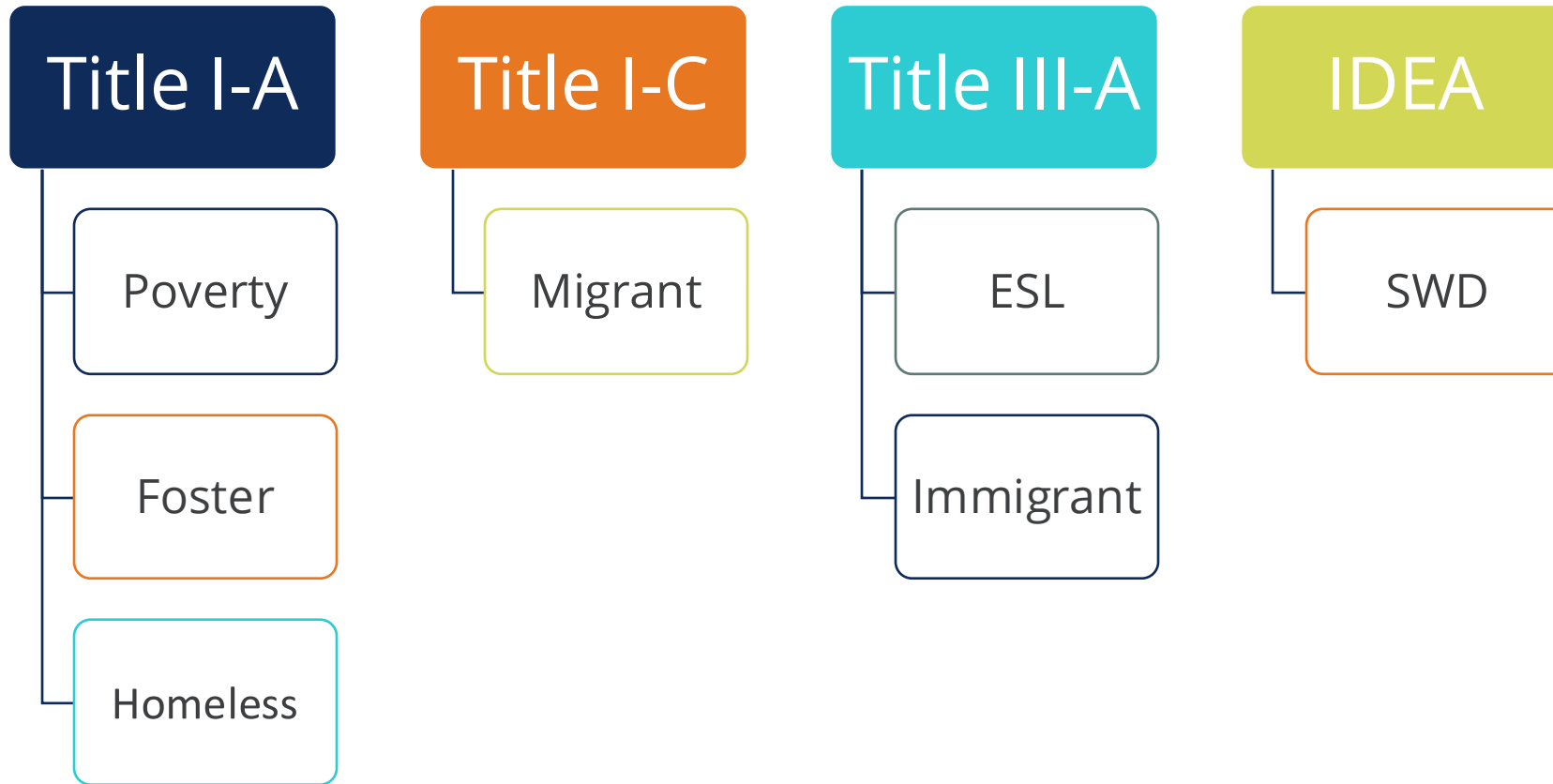
- Non-Regulatory Guidance: Supporting School Reform By Leveraging Federal Funds in a Schoolwide Program, September 2016

School Improvement Planning and Purpose of Consolidation of Funds

- To better meet the needs of students at schoolwide schools
- Leveraging funds to effectively design and implement a comprehensive plan to upgrade the entire education program of the school to raise achievement of lowest achieving students
- LEAs should consider subgroups, statute-specific intent and purposes, grant period limitations, and effectiveness measures.



The traditional method provides separate services to specific target populations as dictated by the grant's rules.



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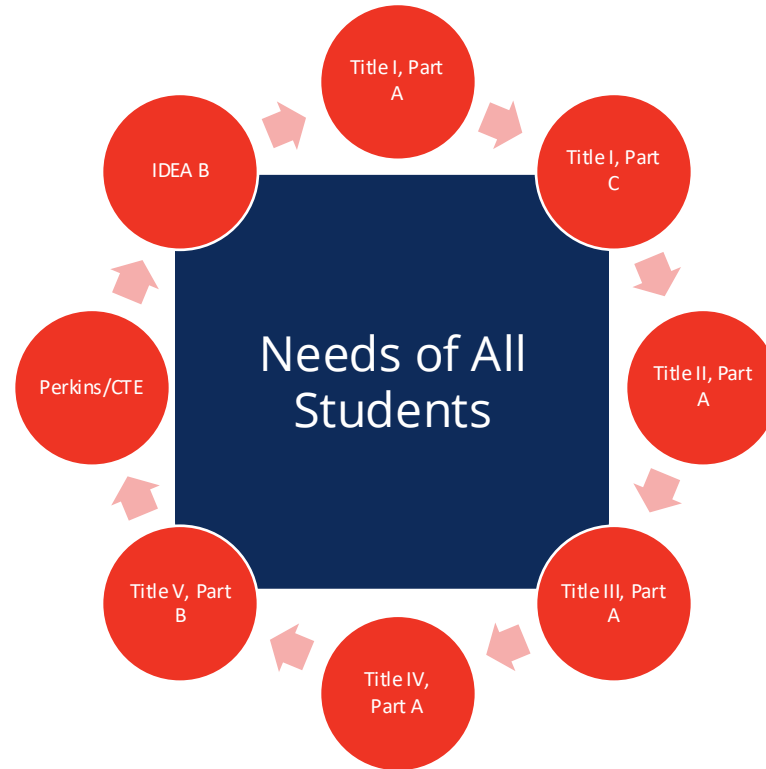
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Pool Rules

The consolidation of funds provides more flexibility.

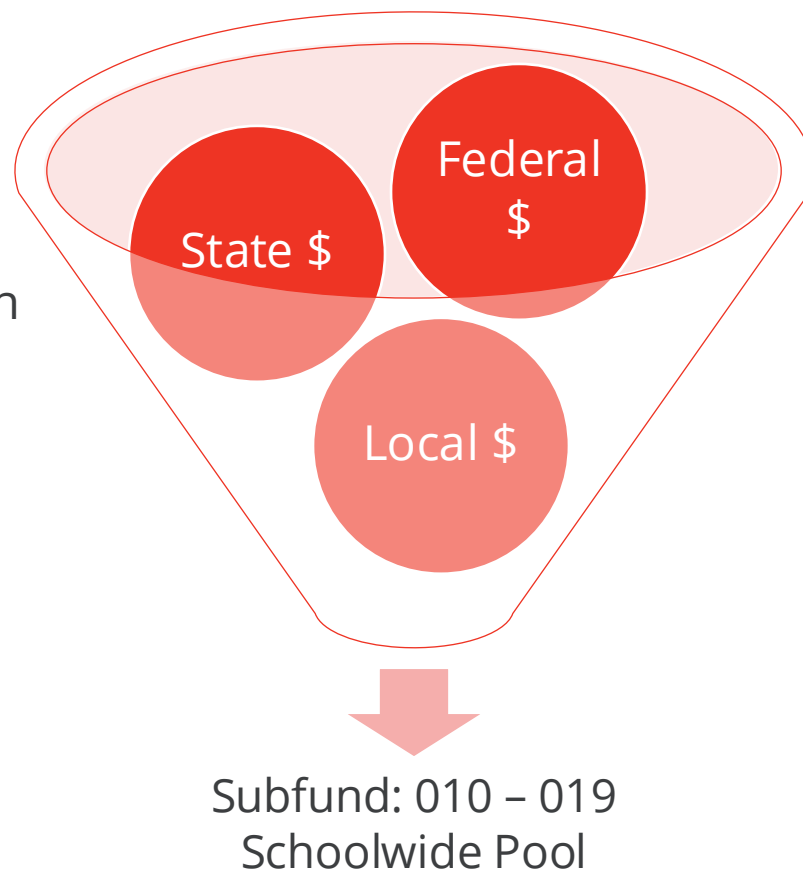
Grants pool together to meet the needs of all students in a school-wide school program.



Particularly the needs of the lowest-achieving students, who are the target grant population.

Flexibility and Innovation:

Individual schools within an LEA may consolidate different grants and amounts.



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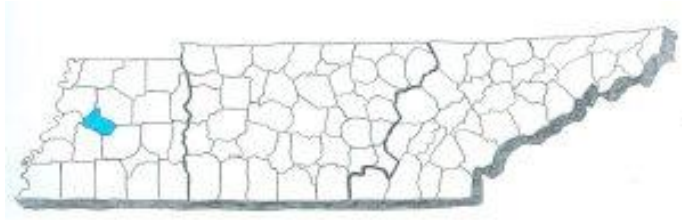
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Spotlight LEAs/Panel Discussion

Crockett County Spotlight



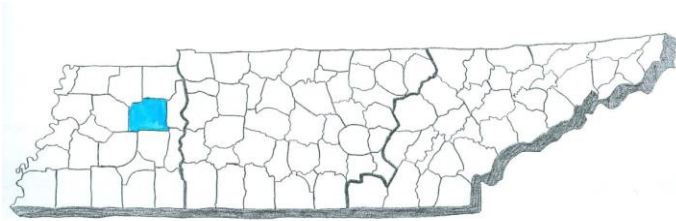
Crockett County



- Enrollment – approx. 1,900
- Poverty – 43%
- Schools – 5, (4 in the pool).
- Funds – Interventionists, Counselor, Music Teacher, ESL: Lexia and Summit K-12 Learning, and PD.
- Pools – T-I, T-II, T-III, and T-IV (ESSA only)



McKenzie SSD Spotlight



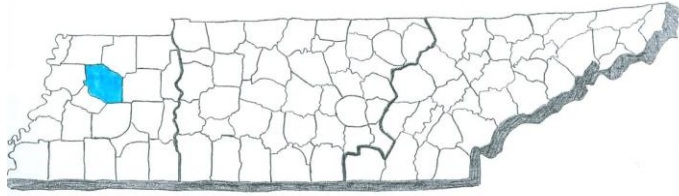
Carroll County



- Enrollment – 1,300
- Poverty – 57%
- Schools – 3 (all in the pool)
- Funds – SPED Teacher, Interventionists, Behavioral Interventionist / Graduation Coach, and Educational Assistants (EAs).
- Pools – TI, TII, TIII, TIV, and IDEA B.



Milan SSD Spotlight



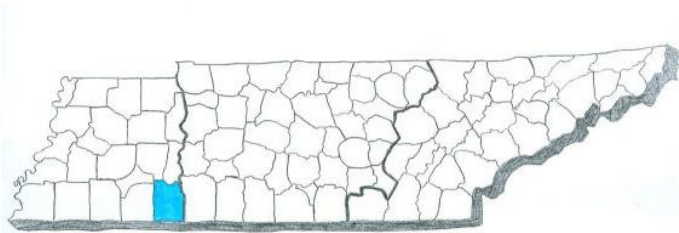
Gibson County



- Enrollment – 1,900
- Poverty – 42%
- 4 Schools (all pooled)
- Funds – Literacy Specialist, Dyslexia Specialist, Family Engagement Coordinator, College and Career Ready Specialist, and EAs.
- Pools – TI, TII, TIII, TIV, and TVB



Hardin County Spotlight



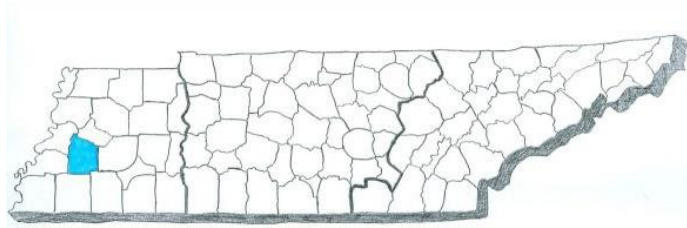
Hardin County



- Enrollment – 3,100
- Poverty – 52%
- 7 Schools, (5 in the Pool, and 2 are braided).
- 2 Private Schools participate
- Funds – Curriculum and Instruction Facilitators, Interventionists, and EAs
- Pools – TI, TII, TIII, TIV, TV



Haywood County Spotlight



Haywood County



- Enrollment – 2,242
- Poverty – 59%
- 6 Schools (all pooled)
- Funds – 7 FTE PLC Coaches, Instruction Partners, Fine Arts, ACT, and Intervention.
- Pools – TI, TII, TIII, TIV, and TV



Going Forward:

- Collaborate with your Principals and School Improvement Planning Teams.
- Collaborate with your CFO and fiscal department.
- Complete an “Intent to Participate: Consolidate School-Wide Pool” form and email it to Ms. Debby Thompson, Assistant Commissioner of FPO.



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Resources

Resources

- [ESSA Flexibilities, U.S. Department of Education \(October 2018\)](#)
- [ESEA § 1114\(a\)\(1\) and \(3\)](#)
- [Supporting School Reform By Leveraging Federal Funds In A Schoolwide Program - U.S. Department of Education \(September 2016\)](#)



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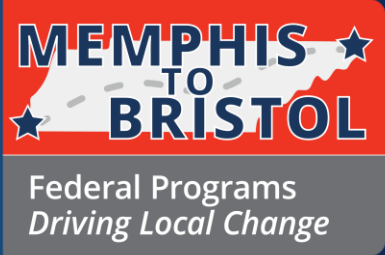
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| | Title II, Strategic Planning with Funds Michelle Harless |
| | Crossroads of ESSA Implementation: Flexibilities and Waivers Debby Thompson |



Thank You!

Contact Info or Questions?



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