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Guiding Every Student Higher



2026 Federal Programs Institute

Charting the Course: Strategic Funding for Student Success

Panel Discussion

District FPO Directors/Middle and West

August 27, 2026



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Agenda

- The Challenge
- The Solution
- The Panel: Who We Are
- Benefits of Consolidating Funds Discussion
 - Teacher & Staff Support
 - Student Learning & Programs
 - Family & Community Engagement
 - Equity & Access
 - Leadership & Lessons Learned
- Q&A



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The Challenge

The Challenge for FP Directors:

- Managing multiple funding streams



Coordinating Federal Funding Streams Unlocks Opportunities to:

-  **Maximize Time:** Staff effort on instruction and student support rather than duplicated processes.
-  **Optimize Resources:** Ensure funds are strategically aligned and fully leveraged.
-  **Respond More Effectively:** Quickly address evolving student and school needs.
-  **Reduce Administrative Burden:** Streamline compliance and reporting requirements.
-  **Increase Impact:** Align services to drive meaningful, system-wide improvements.
-  **Expand Access:** Remove barriers and ensure students receive the support they need.

Slide 6

DT1 [@Brinn Obermiller] please review
Debby Thompson, 2026-08-19T15:07:27.571

LD1 0 [@Brinn Obermiller] and [@Debby Thompson] I pasted in Brinn's slide and added Alt text. Does this look okay? I also changed the slide background to increase room for the pic.
Lynn Dotson, 2026-08-19T15:50:22.694

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The Solution

The Solution for FP Directors:

- Consolidating Funds



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What is consolidation?

- *Consolidating federal funds means combining multiple federal grants into one flexible pool of money that can be used wherever it's needed most in your school, instead of keeping each grant separate with its own restrictions.*
- *ESEA § 1114(a)(1)(A), (3)*



Think of it like this:

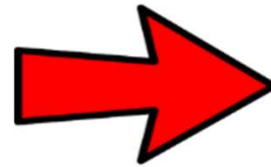
- **Without consolidation**: You have separate gift cards. You can't use the grocery card to buy gas, even if you have plenty left on it and desperately need fuel.



Slide 10

DT1 prefer fed program example [@Brinn Obermiller]
Debby Thompson, 2026-08-19T15:08:06.259

One Funding Source > Many Funding Sources

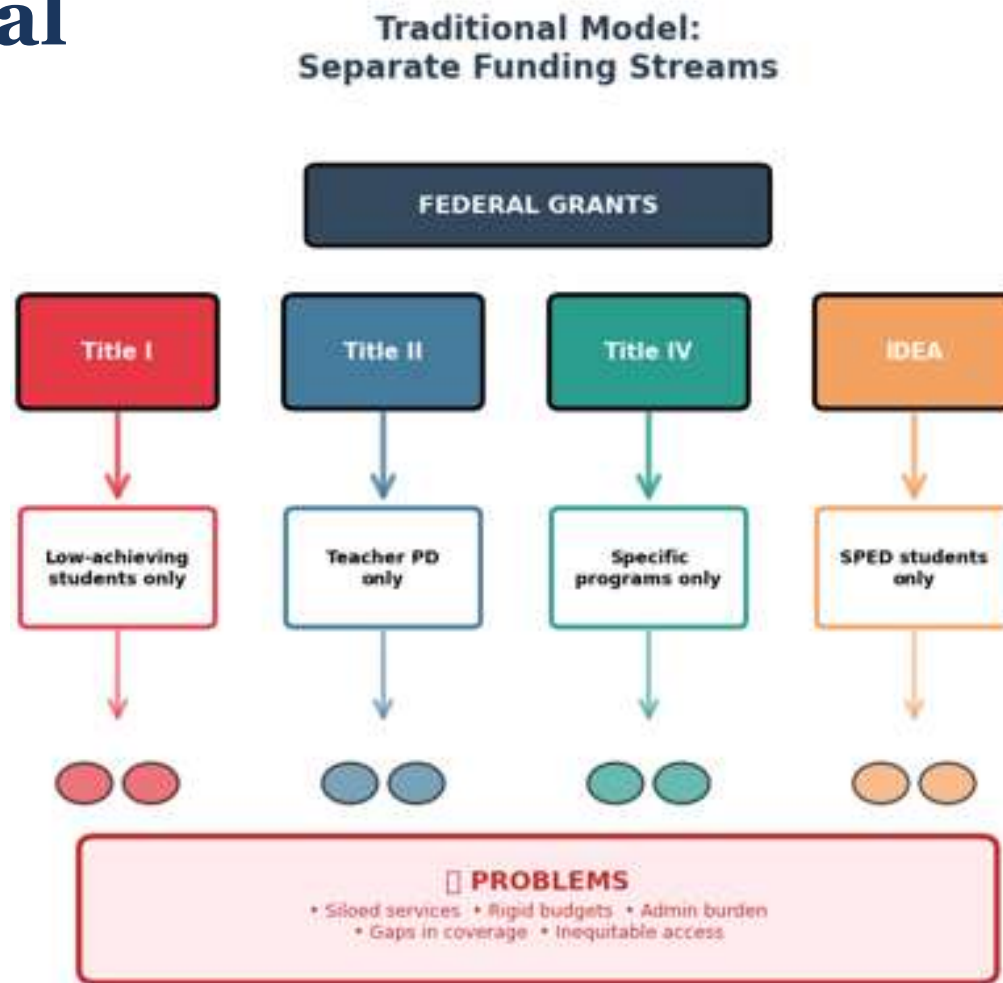


In school terms:

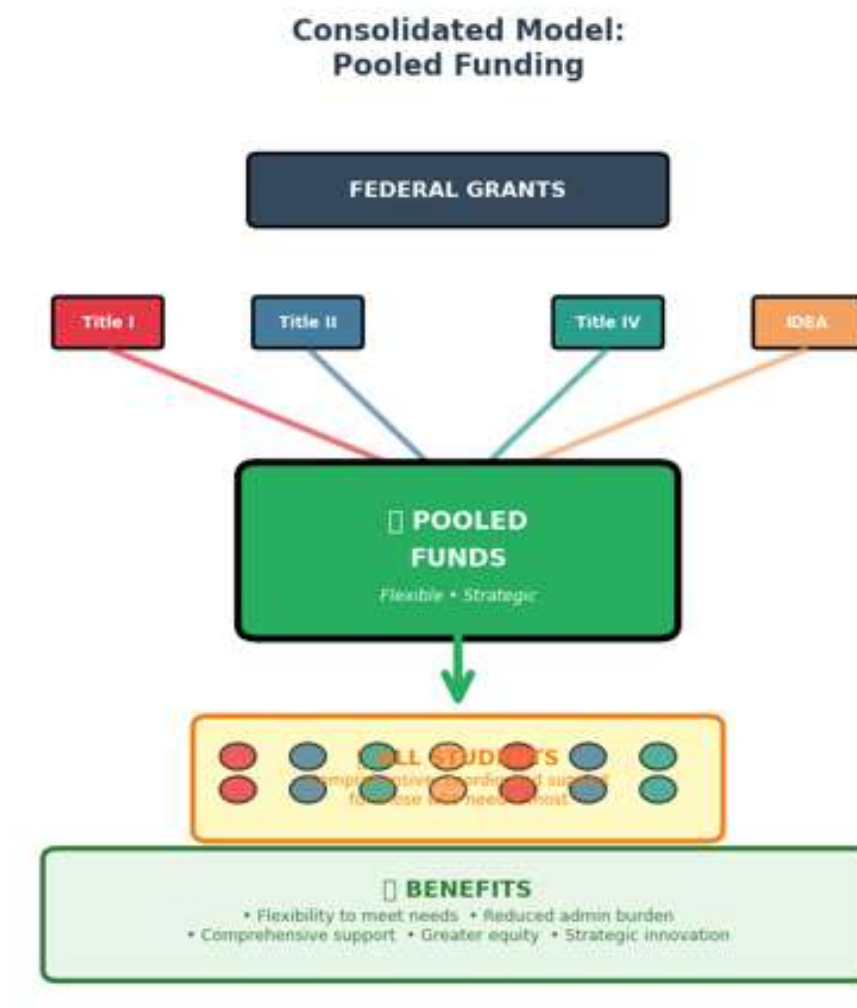
- **With consolidation:** Instead of saying “this money can **ONLY** help Title I students” and “this money can **ONLY** pay for teacher training,” you pool it all together and say, “we’re using **ALL** our federal funds to help **ALL** students succeed” – especially those who need it the most.



Traditional Model



Pooled Fun Model



Why consolidate?

- You should consolidate federal funds because:
 - Allow you to use your money where it will help students the most.
 - Avoid being locked in to following rigid rules that do not match what your students need.



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Here's the Real-World Difference, *Without Consolidation:*

- You have a student struggling in reading and math who also needs counseling support. But your Title I money can only pay for reading help, your Title II money can only be used for teacher training, and your Title IV money is locked into specific programs. Even though you have plenty of money sitting in different buckets, you can't use it to get this student the math tutor and counselor he desperately needs.



Here's the Real-World Difference, *With Consolidation:*

- You look at what your students actually need, and you spend your federal money on that – whether it's hiring more interventionists, adding counselors, buying better curriculum, or funding after-school programs.
- You're not playing a shell game trying to figure out which pot of money to pay for what!





“

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.”

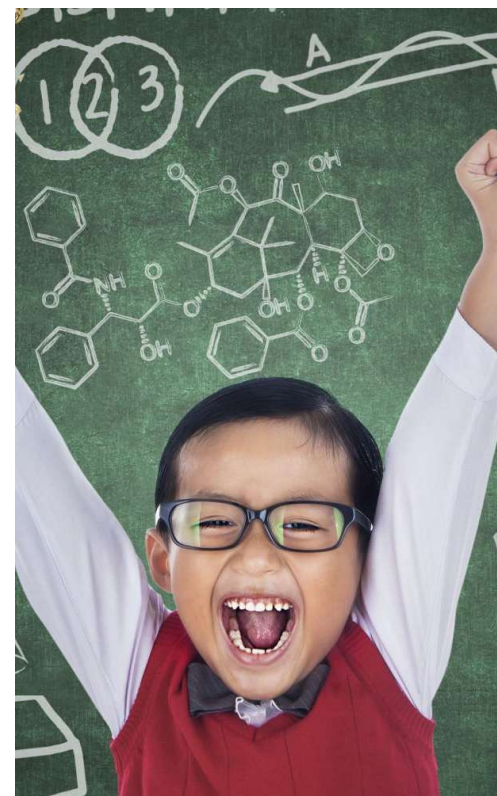
- Non-Regulatory Guidance: Supporting School Reform By Leveraging Federal Funds in a Schoolwide Program, September 2016

Just remember...

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 purpose 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)



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The Panel: Who We Are

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Crockett County



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 – ESSA only

Hardin County



Hardin County



- Enrollment – 3,200
- 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 – ESSA only

Haywood County



Haywood County



- Enrollment – 2,242
- Poverty – 59%
- 5 Schools (all pooled)
- Funds – 7 FTE PLC Coaches, Instruction Partners, Fine Arts, ACT, and Intervention.
- Pools – T-I, T-II, T-IV, and T-V
(un-pooled in 25-26)

Pickett County



Pickett County

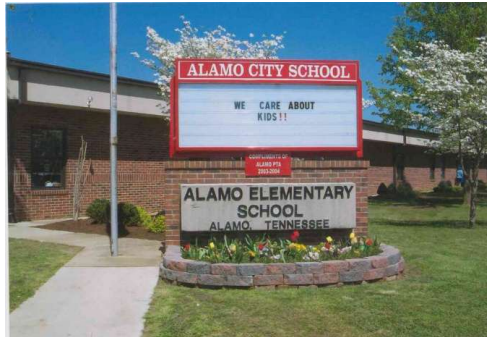


- Enrollment – 579
- Poverty – 23%
- Schools – 2-school district -
Pickett Co. K-8 & Pickett Co. High School
- Funds – EA's for inclusion, Intervention Teacher, PD, Software for SPED, OT, PT, ABA for SPED, supplies, materials, & equipment for students, 3 teachers.
- Pools – ESSA, IDEA B, & CTE

Alamo City School



Crockett County



- Enrollment – 607
- Poverty – 45%
- Schools – 1-school district (PK-6)
- Funds – staff, curriculum \$ associated supplies, PD, evaluation & testing
- Pools – all funds (except T-III)

Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute



Fentress County



- Enrollment – approx. 500
- Poverty – 47%
- Schools – 1-school district (9-12)
- Funds – RTI math & RTI reading teachers, software programs, post-secondary travel for students, rewards program.
- Pools – Both ESSA & IDEA B

McKenzie SSD



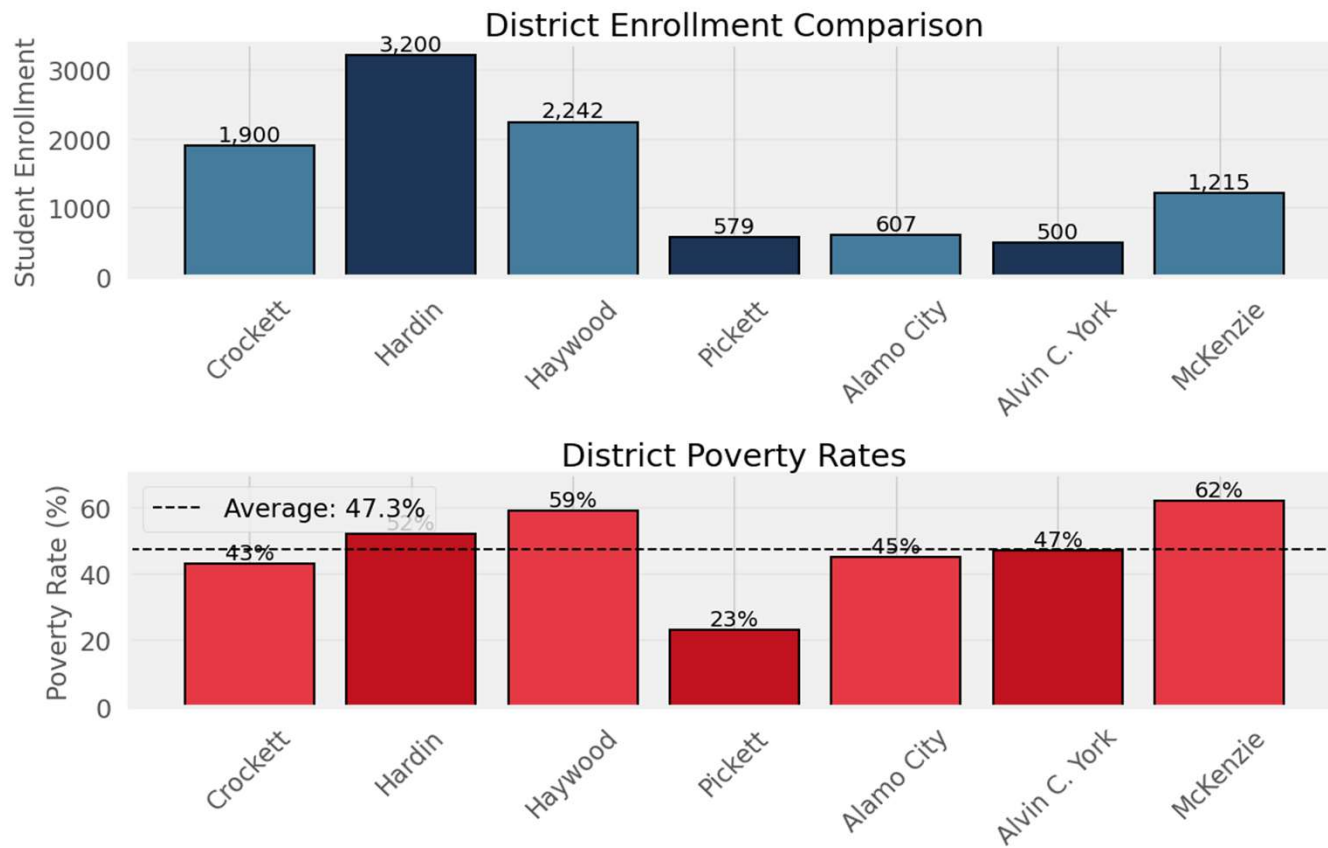
Carroll County



- Enrollment – 1,215
- Poverty – 62%
- Schools – 3 (all in the pool)
- Funds – SPED Teacher, Interventionists, Behavioral Interventionist/Graduation Coach, and Educational Assistants (EAs).
- Pools – Both ESSA & IDEA B.

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Enrollment and Poverty Rates



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Panel Discussion: Benefits of Consolidating Funds

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Discussion 1:

Teacher and Staff Support



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Discussion 2:

Student Learning and Programs



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Discussion 3:

Family and Community
Engagement



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Discussion 4:

Equity and Access



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Discussion 5 :

Leadership and Lessons Learned





Thank You!

Questions?

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Resources

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Linked 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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