

Federal Programs and Ripple Effects

Ripple Effects programs are eligible for unspent 2007-2008 funds from Title I for SES, Transportation Choice and staff training, unspent IDEA/Title I funds set aside for Early Intervening Services, and unspent Title IV funds. Ripple Effects programs qualify for several reason:

- The license fees fro the computer programs are non-recurring
- The programs can be considered professional development / staff training resources
- The student [programs meet the SDFS Principles of Effectiveness
- All programs are evidence-based

As your budgets, programs and funds for next year are being reviewed, I thought recent information on 2008-2009 Title I and IDEA changes* might be helpful. These changes could impact actions you may be planning for year end, i.e., June 30, spending.

May, 2008 -- Some recent developments in Title I and IDEA Non-regulatory Guidance that could affect Districts this year and next

If an LEA received Title I or IDEA funds in the 2007-2008 year:

- If the amount of unspent funds for SES at the end of the year is greater than 15 percent, your district stands to lose the amount in excess of 15 percent under new US Dept. of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance, unless it is spent before June 30th or another state deadline.
- If a portion of the ten percent set-aside for staff development (i.e., ten percent of the total Title I budget) is unspent in districts identified for improvement, then all of the unspent allocation must be carried over and added to the ten percent staff development set-aside next year. Hence, a combination of training and support along with staff development services and products could be purchased by June 30.
- If proposed US Dept. of Education regulations are adopted, then next year it will be much more difficult to justify spending unused SES set-asides at the end of the 2009 year for other allowable products and services.
- Recent US Dept. of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance allows after-school operators, funded under 21st Century Community Learning Centers, even if the district operates such programs (perhaps in conjunction with community-based organizations) and if the program is approved by the state, to provide its own SES because it is considered by USED as being legally a "separate" and "distinct" entity.