



CARES Act – Title IV, Part A COVID-19 Guidance **May 1, 2020**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act is a law that responds to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on the economy, public health, and state and local governments.

Additionally, pursuant to section 3511 of Division A of the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education has granted flexibilities for the use of existing federal funds through a waiver process. The waiver has extended the period of availability for the Title IV, Part A funds in the FY 2019 application until Sept. 30, 2021. The following waiver conditions do not apply for FY 2020 and any available FY 2019 carryover funds:

- **Needs assessment requirements in section 4106(d) for the 2019-2020 school year**

The requirement for a local Needs Assessment will only be waived relating to COVID-19. This waiver will not pertain to new applications for FY 21. Previous applications and Needs Assessments remain valid and required based on federal regulations.

- **Content area spending requirements in section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D) and (E), the requirements to use a minimum percentage of Title IV, Part A funds for activities under sections 4107, 4108 and 4109 for funds in the FY19 and FY20 applications**

Requiring districts that receive \$30,000 or more to spend at least 20% in Well-Rounded Education, 20% in Safe and Healthy Students and a portion in Effective Use of Technology has been waived. The waiver now allows districts to allocate funds in any area without a minimum spending requirement for each section.

- **Spending limitation in section 4109(b), the 15% limit on the use of funds under section 4109 to purchase technology infrastructure for funds in the FY19 and FY20 applications**

The 15% cap on the use of Title IV, Part A funds for technology relating to COVID-19 is waived. Districts may now spend more than 15% on technology infrastructure if the purchases continue to meet federal requirements for being allocable, reasonable and necessary.

- **The definition of professional development in section 8101(42) of the ESEA for the 2019-2020 school year**

There is an allowance for professional development as a one-time training related to technology for faculty and effective distance learning techniques.

There are still expenditures that are not allowed under the CARES Act, such as banquets and food purchases (including candy and meals), construction/renovation, awards and award ceremonies.

All other statutory guidance for Title IV, Part A and federal guidance under the [Education Administration General Administrative Regulations \(EDGAR\)](#) still apply.