**Tool #2: Summary of Major Changes to Federal Programs under *ESSA***

The major changes to federal programs under ESSA can be divided into 5 main categories:

1. **Funding**

* **Title IA & Title IIA:** The proportional share of funds for Title IA and Title IIA is now determined on the basis of the full allocation received by the district, before any uses are made of the allocated funds and prior to any allowable expenditures or transfers by the district.
* **Fiscal Obligation:** Funds are now obligated in the fiscal year in which they were received by the public school district. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that school districts use the funds available in the fiscal year for which they were appropriated. If there are extenuating circumstances in which a district is unable to obligate all funds within this timeframe in a responsible manner, agreed upon services were not provided, or no private school students were eligible for a program during the fiscal year, the funds may remain available during the subsequent school year.

1. **Consultation**

* **New language is used to describe consultation:** 
  + the goal of consultation is to reach agreement
  + the results of consultation are transmitted to the ombudsman
  + consultation includes a discussion of how the proportional share of funds is determined
  + whether or not funds should be pooled is part of consultation
  + the approximate time of day the services will be provided is discussed in consultation
  + whether to combine the funds across programs to provide coordinated services is part of consultation
* **Written analysis-** 
  + **All title programs:** If the public school district disagrees on the use of a third party for the provision of services, it must now provide a written analysis to private school officials of the reasons for its decision.
  + **Title IA only:** If the public school district disagrees with the views of the private school officials during consultation, it must provide a written analysis of the reasons the district has decided not to adopt the requested course of action.

1. **Safeguards for Private Schools**

* **Ombudsman-** ESSA requires the appointment of a state ombudsman who will monitor and enforce the requirements for equitable participation of private schools in federal programs.
* **Written affirmation-** All title programs now require a written affirmation of timely and meaningful consultation. In the past the written affirmation was only required for the Title IA program. Private schools now have the option to indicate that timely and meaningful consultation did NOT occur.
* **SEA as service provider-** If a private school demonstrates that the LEA has not met the requirements of ESSA for equitable services, the SEA can provide the services directly or through contracts with other agencies.
* **Complaint procedure-** Under ESSA, the state must resolve a complaint by a private school within 45 days. If the complaint is appealed to the U.S. Secretary of Education, it must be resolved within 90 days.

1. **Services**

* **Title IA:** ESSA focuses Title IA services to providing a well-rounded education to all students. This can include courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as ELA, STEM, foreign languages, government, computer science, etc. It expands available services under Title IA to include counseling, mentoring, and one-on-one tutoring. Services can now be provided individually or in combination. High school students can now participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs in which they receive high school credits while earning postsecondary credits through an institute of higher education.
* **Title IIA:** ESSA expands the definition of professional development to include:
  + PD that will help teachers support young children/ students in early grades, students with disabilities, ELLs, and gifted/ talented students
  + PD for teachers, paraprofessionals, instructional leadership teams, principals, and other leaders
  + Learning through observation
  + Developing and using formative assessments to drive instruction
  + Supporting and developing effective libraries
  + Developing feedback mechanisms to improve school working conditions
  + Carrying out STEM activities
  + New teacher, principal, or other school leader mentoring programs
  + Effective family engagement
* **Title III:** 
  + New language in ESSA emphasizes the use of Title III funds to engage early learners.
  + ESSA implements the requirement that all students who may be EL are assessed within 30 days.
* **Title IVB, 21st Century Community Learning Centers:** The aim of this program is to provide additional services, programs and activities designed to reinforce and complement a regular academic program, and other family literacy programs.

1. **Programs**

* **Title IVA, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants:** This is a new program under ESSA. The aim of this program is to improve: students’ access to a well-rounded education, school conditions for student learning, and the use of technology to promote academic achievement and digital literacy.