Benefiting Students by Combining Non-Federal Funds and Funds from Multiple Federal Programs in Title I Schoolwide Programs: Georgia’s Journey

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Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Overview
A schoolwide program:

- Is one of two types of Title I, Part A (Title I) programs operated by Title I schools

- Upgrades a Title I school’s entire educational program in order to improve the achievement of the lowest-achieving students

- Conducts a comprehensive needs assessment, develops a schoolwide plan, and regularly monitors and revises the plan as needed
The ESEA requires, among other things, that a schoolwide program:

- Include in its schoolwide plan strategies for addressing the educational needs of all students, but particularly low-achieving students.
- Provide opportunities for each major subgroup of students to meet challenging standards.
The ESEA requires, among other things, that a schoolwide program:

- Comply with all Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with respect to children with disabilities

- Receive from its LEA the State and local funds needed to provide services that are required by law for children with disabilities and English learners
Any Title I school may operate a schoolwide program if:

- The school’s poverty percentage equals or exceeds 40 percent; or
- The school receives a waiver of the 40 percent poverty threshold from the State
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Overview

ESEA section 1114(a)(1), (3)

Consolidating funds:

• A schoolwide program may consolidate (combine) in a schoolwide program Title I funds together with other Federal, State funds

• “Federal funds” refers to any funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) for pre-k, elementary, or secondary education
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Overview

Consolidating funds:

• A schoolwide school treats the consolidated funds like they are a single “pool” of funds

• Consolidated funds lose their individual identity as Federal, State, or local funds so that the school may use the funds for any schoolwide activity

ESEA section 1114(a)(1), (3)
Why consolidate funds?

- Enables a schoolwide program to more effectively design and implement its comprehensive plan to upgrade the school’s entire educational program without regard to aligning specific Federal funds to allowable activities.

- No requirement to maintain separate fiscal accounting records by Federal program that identify the specific activities supported by each program’s funds (e.g., simplified time and effort reporting).

- Exempts the school from meeting most of the statutory and regulatory requirements of the specific Federal programs included in the consolidation, provided the schoolwide program meets the intent and purposes of those programs.
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Overview

ESEA sections 1114(a)(1)(A) and 1114(a)(3)

Intent and Purposes:

- Focus on each program’s purposes as described in the ESEA
- Ensure that the schoolwide plan addresses the purposes
- Flexibility to use the consolidated funds to meet the intent and purposes
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Overview

ESEA section 2001

Intent and Purposes: Title II, Part A example:

• Purpose: To increase student achievement by improving the quality and effectiveness of teachers and school leaders and by providing low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers and school leaders.

• A schoolwide program can meet the intent and purposes of Title II, Part A by including in its schoolwide plan activities and strategies that address this purpose such as providing high-quality professional development for teachers and school leaders using the consolidated funds (rather than only Title II, Part A funds) to pay for these activities.
Limitations apply before a schoolwide school may consolidate funds from these programs:

- Title I, Part C Migrant Education
- Title VI, Part A, Subpart 1 Indian education
- IDEA, Part B

Pages 8-10 of ED’s non-regulatory guidance on schoolwide programs describe these limitations
An SEA must modify or eliminate State fiscal and accounting barriers so that a Title I school operating a schoolwide program can easily consolidate funds from other Federal, State and local sources to improve educational opportunities and reduce unnecessary fiscal and accounting requirements.
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: How the Georgia Department of Education Promotes Consolidation
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Georgia Department of Education

- History of Consolidation
- Progress and Growth of Consolidation
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Georgia Department of Education
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Georgia Department of Education

- Overview of Consolidation
- Future of Consolidation
# Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Georgia Department of Education

## Consolidation of Funds for Title I Schoolwide Schools (2015-2020)

The following federal funds are available for consolidation under the initiative:

- **Title I, Part A** – Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
- **Title I 1003(a) – School Improvement Grant** (amended by ESSA to include new set-asides and authority for new subgrants to LEAs ending 9/30/21)
- **Title I 1003(g) – School Improvement Grant** (eliminated under ESSA, though current programs will continue until the end of the grant period)
- **Title I, Part C – Education of Migrant Children**
- **Title I, Part D (Subpart 2 only) – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk**
- **Title II, Part A – Supportive Effective Instruction**
- **Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act (Includes Grants for English Support and Immigrant Students)**
- **Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment**
- **Title IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers**
- **Title V, Part B – Rural Education Initiative**
- **McKinney-Vento – Education for Homeless Children and Youth**
- **Special Education Federal Funds – IDEA 611 and 619**

The following special allotments may **not** be consolidated in a schoolwide consolidation fund:

- Special Education State Funds
- Bilingual Education Allotment
- Career and Technology Education Allotment

Districts will establish a consolidated schoolwide pool for each school that is consolidating funds as part of the schoolwide program. This pool should be based on those expenditures that are in support of the following seven functional categories:

- **1000 – Instruction**
- **2100 – Pupil Services**
- **2210 – Improvement of Instructional Services**
- **2213 – Instructional Staff Training**
- **2220 – Educational Media Services**
- **2400 – School Administration**
- **2700 – Transportation (Supplemental academic services only; for example field trips, after school programs such as tutoring, summer programs and work placement)**

- **Underlined funds and functional categories are newly added for the 2019-2020 school year.**
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: How Dougherty County Schools and its Students Benefit from Consolidation
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Dougherty County Schools

- History

- Planning and participation in Consolidation
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Dougherty County Schools

- Programs Consolidated
- More programs Consolidated than any LEA in Georgia
• Training: principals and staff

• Progress and impact of consolidation from year one to today
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: How Foothills Education Charter High School and its Students Benefit from Consolidation
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Foothills Education Charter High School

- Located in Northeast Georgia
- State Charter Schools Commission School
  - Opened in 2015-16
  - Large population of second chance, drop-out students
    - At-risk, low achieving when they enroll
  - Work at your own pace, individualized mastery learning
  - Current enrollment over 2000 students
- Blended model of instruction
  - Computer LMS is teacher
  - Certified teachers as facilitators in every classroom
  - Tutors
- Student Support Services
  - Paid mentor for every student
  - Counselors, graduation coaches, social workers, career specialists
- www.foothillscharter.org
Federal Funds Consolidation

- Consolidate Title I, Title II-A, Title IV-A, and Title I School Improvement funds
- Will continue to consolidate as much as we possibly can
- Each year during the budget process we work with sites on their school improvement plans
  - These are based on local site data as well as the District Improvement Plan
  - District Improvement Plan is based on the System Strategic Plan developed by local internal and external stakeholders.
Federal Funds Consolidation

- School Improvement Plans are used to determine budgetary needs at each site.
- District then equitably allocates resources.
- Federal funds are consolidated to continue school improvement needs.
  - Intent and Purpose statements for each consolidated grant are created from school improvement plans goals.
  - Above and beyond district allocations.
Federal Funds Consolidation

• Add federal funds consolidated on top of already budgeted state/local funds (combine)

• Spreadsheet to determine the percentage of total for each grant

• Drawdown funds using total expenditures for a time period based on the percentage worksheet
## Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Foothills Education Charter High School

### Sample Percentage Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>State &amp; Local Fund 150 - $</th>
<th>Title I-A</th>
<th>Title I - additional funds</th>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>IDEA - additional funds</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>State &amp; Local Funds - %</th>
<th>Title I-A</th>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>Madison</td>
<td>$507,776</td>
<td>$22,578</td>
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<td>530,354</td>
<td>95.74%</td>
<td>4.26%</td>
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<td>Clarke</td>
<td>$745,844</td>
<td>$47,499</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>793,343</td>
<td>94.01%</td>
<td>5.99%</td>
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<td>Baldwin</td>
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<td>$20,661</td>
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<td>445,072</td>
<td>95.36%</td>
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<td>Jackson</td>
<td>$619,500</td>
<td>$32,163</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>651,663</td>
<td>95.06%</td>
<td>4.94%</td>
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<td>Barrow</td>
<td>$1,200,922</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,279,306</td>
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<td>Arrendale</td>
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<td>317,009</td>
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<td>0.94%</td>
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<td>Burress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>521,893</td>
<td>98.20%</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>$566,064</td>
<td>$16,401</td>
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<td></td>
<td>582,465</td>
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<td>Oglet.</td>
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<td>Greene</td>
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<td>Bibb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
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<td>$247,638</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,032,417</td>
<td>76.01%</td>
<td>23.99%</td>
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<td>100.00%</td>
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<td>Achievement Grant Sustainment</td>
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<td>$10,202,314</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>94.18%</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
<td>2.29%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Federal Funds Consolidation

Benefits

• Focus is on school improvement and makes compliance EASIER
  • No time and effort
  • No separate inventories
  • Better use of smaller federal grant awards
  • Easier budgeting of federal funds
  • Better reporting on total costs per program
  • Flexible and fluid
  • Spend most of federal funds on this year’s students (lower carryover amounts)
Federal Funds Consolidation

Benefits

- Provide tutors in core subject areas for any students with an identified need
  - Started with math and grew to all core subject areas based on need
  - All teachers can be tutors
  - Flexible personnel assignments
  - Allows for meeting the IMMEDIATE needs of students

- Instructional Coaches, Curriculum Teams, Data Teams
  - Focus on constant approval of teaching, curriculum alignment and data-driven decisions
Summary

Foothills Education Charter High School firmly believes the benefits of the flexibility and focus on school improvement at the local school level are instrumental in reforming education models to meet student needs quickly and effectively. By doing this, achievement and student success rise.

For Foothills, this means more graduates as we strive to change communities one student at a time.
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: How Cartersville City Schools and its Students Benefit from Consolidation
Top 10 Reasons to Consolidate Funds:

10. All money in one budget, no longer have to split funds between programs
9. Principals can make changes to spending during the year without amendments
8. Increase professional development for ALL staff
Combining Funds in a Schoolwide Program: Cartersville City Schools

Top 10 Reasons to Consolidate Funds:

7. No more “time and effort”
6. Inventory for consolidated purchases not connected to any federal program
5. Consolidated Application reduced to one line per school
Top 10 Reasons to Consolidate Funds:

4. Flexibility in the use of instructional coaching staff (previously Title I positions)

3. Increased efficiency in overseeing Federal Programs allows time to be spent elsewhere

2. Control over federal programs’ budgets and decisions
Top 10 Reasons to Consolidate Funds:

And the #1 reason to consolidate funds is...
Shift from compliant spending to spending based on student needs
Selected Resources

- ED’s Schoolwide Guidance
- ED's Title I Fiscal Guidance (see consolidating funds section)
- Georgia's Consolidation of Funds Website