

ED-Flex Written Request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

1. The ESSA requirement to be waived.

(Title I-A Carryover Requirement, 20 USC 6339)

2. The reason why the LEA expended less than 85% of the allocation in the prior year

Since the inception of ESSER and EANS funds it has been a challenge for Milwaukee Public Schools to provide Title I service to Milwaukee resident students attending non-public schools.

The concerns shared below have been shared with our DPI Title I and School Support Contact, Brielle Glatzel. Through these conversations, we have offered additional services such as academic support, one-to-one, before/after school tutoring, and Saturday academy to the non-public schools.

- ESSER and EANS – With the access to ESSER and EANS funds non-public schools chose to use ESSER and EANS because it allowed broad flexibility and funds could supplant. These allocations were used first and reduced the use of the Title I allocation of services. In some cases, ESSER/EANS funds were used to create an intervention program in schools and therefore Title I intervention had minimum use.
- Teacher shortage – With the nationwide shortage of teachers, it has been a challenge for vendors to find teachers who hold a valid State of Wisconsin teaching license. With the shortage, the market for teachers has become very competitive to the point where a licensed teacher is hired and trained by the vendor then the teacher was hired by the non-public schools or another district.
- Scheduling issues – Schools regular academic scheduling made it a challenge to implement Title I interventions before, during, and after school even with Saturday options. Schools also created schedules without considering Title I services and often vendors were left with a small window of time to implement Title I services.

3. The rationale for the waiver, including a clear description of:

- the estimated amount of carryover to be waived; 8,570,508.75
- a plan for how the funds will be used, including the amount of anticipated costs associated with the plan; and

Overall, the funding will be used to provide Title I services such as increased instruction to 114 Title I non-public schools, 1-to1 tutoring, academic support to eligible students, professional development for Title I teachers, and family engagement activities.

- how the use of funds aligns with the ESSA State Plan and the LEA's ESSA Plan

1. Focus on Title I Schools: The above plan focuses on instruction, family engagement, and professional development which is the core focus of the MPS ESSA LEA Plan. Both the state and MPS ESSA LEA Plans emphasize improving educational opportunities in low-income areas and ensuring equitable access to resources to close the achievement gap for all subgroups.
2. Increased access to well-rounded Instruction and Tutoring: Providing additional instruction and 1-to-1 tutoring aligns with ESSA's commitment to evidence-based interventions aimed at

improving student achievement. This directly supports the goal of enhancing academic outcomes for disadvantaged students.

3. Professional Development to further high-quality education for all students: Investing in professional development for Title I teachers is crucial. ESSA highlights the importance of well-trained educators, as effective teaching is a key factor in student success. This aspect of the plan aligns well with the professional learning opportunities outlined in both the state and MPS ESSA LEA plans.
4. Academic Support for students to meet challenging academic standards: Offering academic support to eligible students supports the ESSA goal of addressing the needs of struggling learners. This aligns with strategies in the Wisconsin State Plan that advocate for targeted assistance to improve student performance.
5. Family Engagement: Including family engagement activities reflects ESSA's emphasis on community and family involvement in education. This is a key component of both the Wisconsin State Plan and the MPS ESSA LEA Plan, as they recognize the importance of collaboration between schools and families to foster student success.