

**84.010**

**TITLE I GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES**

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**State Project/Program:** TITLE I SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS (PRC 050)

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**US Department of Education**

**Federal Authorization:** Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) P.L.114-95. Effective 07/01/17.

**State Authorization:** School Improvement (PRC 105)

**NC Department of Public Instruction**

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**Agency Contacts:**

**Program**

Michael E. Wells, Ph.D., Director  
Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division  
[Michael.Wells@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Michael.Wells@dpi.nc.gov) (919) 807-3957

Dr. Christopher Vecchione, Assistant Director  
Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division  
[Chris.Vecchione@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Chris.Vecchione@dpi.nc.gov) (919) 807-3911

**Financial**

Leigh Ann Kerr, Assistant Director  
Division of School Business  
[LeighAnn.Kerr@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:LeighAnn.Kerr@dpi.nc.gov)(919) 807-3553

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**N.C. DPI Confirmation Reports:**

Confirmation of Funds Expended and/or Disbursed from the State Public School Fund and Federal Programs 2018-19 will be available at the [NC DPI School Business Division Annual Reports Application](#). The system provides an electronic view of Year-to-Date (YTD) financial reports in response to requests for confirmation from independent auditors.

**The auditor should not consider the Supplement to be “safe harbor” for identifying audit procedures to apply in a particular engagement, but the auditor should be prepared to justify departures from the suggested procedures. The auditor can consider the supplement a “safe harbor” for identification of compliance requirements to be tested if the auditor performs reasonable procedures to ensure that the requirements in the Supplement are current. The grantor agency may elect to review audit working papers to determine that audit tests are adequate.**

**I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

School Improvement grants authorized under section 1003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), are grants for use in the state’s lowest-achieving schools. These funds are reserved from the State educational agency’s (SEA’s) Title I, Part A funds to make formula grants available to local educational agencies (LEAs). With the approved waivers for North Carolina’s ESEA Flexibility Request, an LEA may apply for funds for eligible schools identified under the federally-approved definition for “priority schools.”

In awarding such sub-grants, an LEA must commit to using 1003(a) funds to implement one of four school intervention models: turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model; or to implement interventions aligned with turnaround principles.

**II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

Funds are obtained by a state following submission of an application to the Secretary of Education. Annually the State Education Agency sets aside an amount not to exceed 3% of its Title I, Part A funds to allot to LEAs with schools in Title I School Improvement.

**III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) mandates that all testing in the DPI cross-cutting requirements be performed by the local auditor. Please refer to cross-cutting requirements DPI-0.

**A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed**

**Compliance Requirements** - Funds may be used by a LEA or other operating agency only in accordance with the approved State plan and only for those services or activities in its approved project application.

**Audit Objective** - To determine that expenditures are allowable.

**Suggested Audit Procedures:**

- Obtain a copy of the Budget Balance Reconciliation Report (305/705) from the finance officer and compare to local accounting records for conformity.
- Obtain a copy of the project plan application from the local program coordinator and review expenditures to determine that expenditures are in accordance with the project application.

**B. Allowable Costs/Cost Principles**

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

**C. Cash Management**

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

**E. Eligibility**

Eligibility for Subrecipients – No testing is required. The Department of Public Instruction program consultant determines if the eligibility requirements are met when the project is approved.

**F. Equipment and Real Property Management**

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements

**G. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking**

**1. Matching**

This compliance requirement does not apply at the local level. No testing is required.

**2. Level of Effort**

Sub-section 2.2, Level of Effort – Supplement Not Supplant, of the US Department of Education Cross-Cutting Section has been determined to apply to this program.

**3. Earmarking**

This compliance requirement does not apply at the local level. No testing is required.

**H. Period of Availability of Federal Funds**

**Compliance Requirement** - Expenditures may not be incurred before the beginning date of the project. Any expenditures prior to the beginning date are considered unallowable and must be refunded to DPI.

**Audit Objective** - To determine that no expenditures were incurred prior to the beginning date of the approved project.

Suggested Audit Procedures

- Review transactions to verify that no expenditures were incurred prior to the approved application beginning date.
- Review the allotment report, Budget Utilization and Development System (BUD) communication form, or project approval letter from DPI to determine the project beginning date.

**I. Procurement and Suspension and Debarment**

Addressed in the US Department of Education Cross-cutting Section and NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-cutting Requirements.

**L. Reporting**

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.

**N. Special Tests and Provisions**

Addressed in the NC Department of Public Instruction Cross-Cutting Requirements.