

Dear Title VI Directors/Coordinators:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents a unique opportunity to increase equity and access for American Indian and Alaska Native students. Your comments, feedback and discussions throughout the ESSA state plan development process have been valuable and carefully reviewed. As a result, three changes have been made to the administration of the grant.

- Section 8538 of the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA, now requires LEAs that meet certain criteria, to consult with Indian tribes and/or tribal organizations on issues affecting American Indian students. For information on tribal consultation requirements visit <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/faq/essafaqtribalconsultation.pdf>. Each LEA must maintain in the agency's records a written affirmation signed by the appropriate officials of the participating tribes (or tribal organizations approved by the tribes) that the required consultation occurred. This affirmation will need to be provided to the CDE. The Yearly Affirmation Form can be found on our Title VI website at https://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/titlevii.
- In an effort to increase awareness of the Title VI Formula Grant and support Colorado school districts with the application process, CDE is collecting information from those districts intending to apply. Districts that are interested in applying for this funding opportunity must submit a Letter of Intent to apply through Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/title_vi_1718 by August 31, 2017.
- Before submitting an application to the Secretary under section 6114 of the ESEA, a local educational agency shall submit the application to the SEA, which may comment on such application. CDE is asking each LEA to submit a copy of their Title VI application to Georgina Owen, Title VI Coordinator, by June 30th of each year.

Collecting the Title VI applications from each LEA will support conversations during the Consolidated Application review process and provide information and data on how CDE can better support LEAs to meet the needs of our American Indian and Alaska Native students.

As always, our mission is to support all students and make certain American Indian and Alaska Native students are part of the statewide and district-wide decision making process. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to supporting all of you in meeting the unique needs of Native American and Alaska Native students and providing the best services possible.

Sincerely,
Georgina Owen
Title VI Coordinator