

# Equitable Services to Non-public Schools

## Consultation Timeline



### Goal of Consultation

The goal of consultation between the LEA and appropriate private school officials is agreement regarding how to provide equitable and effective programs for eligible private school children. The “goal of reaching agreement” between an LEA and appropriate private school officials is grounded in timely, meaningful, and open communication between the LEA and the private school officials on key issues that are relevant to the equitable participation of eligible private school students, teachers and other education personnel, and families in ESEA programs.

Meaningful consultation provides ample time and a genuine opportunity for all parties to express their views, to have their views seriously considered, and to discuss viable options for ensuring equitable participation of eligible private school students, teachers and other education personnel, and families. This assumes that the LEA has not made any decisions that will impact the participation of private school students and teachers in applicable programs prior to consultation, or established a blanket rule that precludes private school students and teachers from receiving certain services authorized under applicable programs.

An LEA must consult with private school officials about the timeline for consultation and provide adequate notice of such consultation to ensure that consultation is meaningful and the likelihood that those involved will be well prepared with the necessary information and data for decision-making. Successful consultation begins well before the implementation of services, establishes positive and productive working relationships, makes planning effective, continues throughout implementation of equitable services, and serves to ensure that the services provided meet the needs of eligible students and teachers.

LEAs and private school officials may use the suggested timeline (provided on the following page) as a model for the planning and implementation of equitable services. This timeline is provided as a tool for LEAs and non-public schools, and may be adjusted to meet the needs of both parties.

### Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Consultation

- **Question: Is the LEA required to consult with for-profit private schools?**

Answer: For-profit non-public schools are NOT eligible to receive equitable services under the ESEA. The LEA is only required to consult with non-profit non-public schools regarding the provision of equitable services.

- **Question: When does an LEA consult with private school officials?**

Answer: Consultation by an LEA must include meetings between the LEA and appropriate private school officials and must occur before the LEA makes any decision that affects the opportunity for eligible private school children, their teachers, and their families to participate in Title programs.

- **Question: Who participates in the consultation process?**

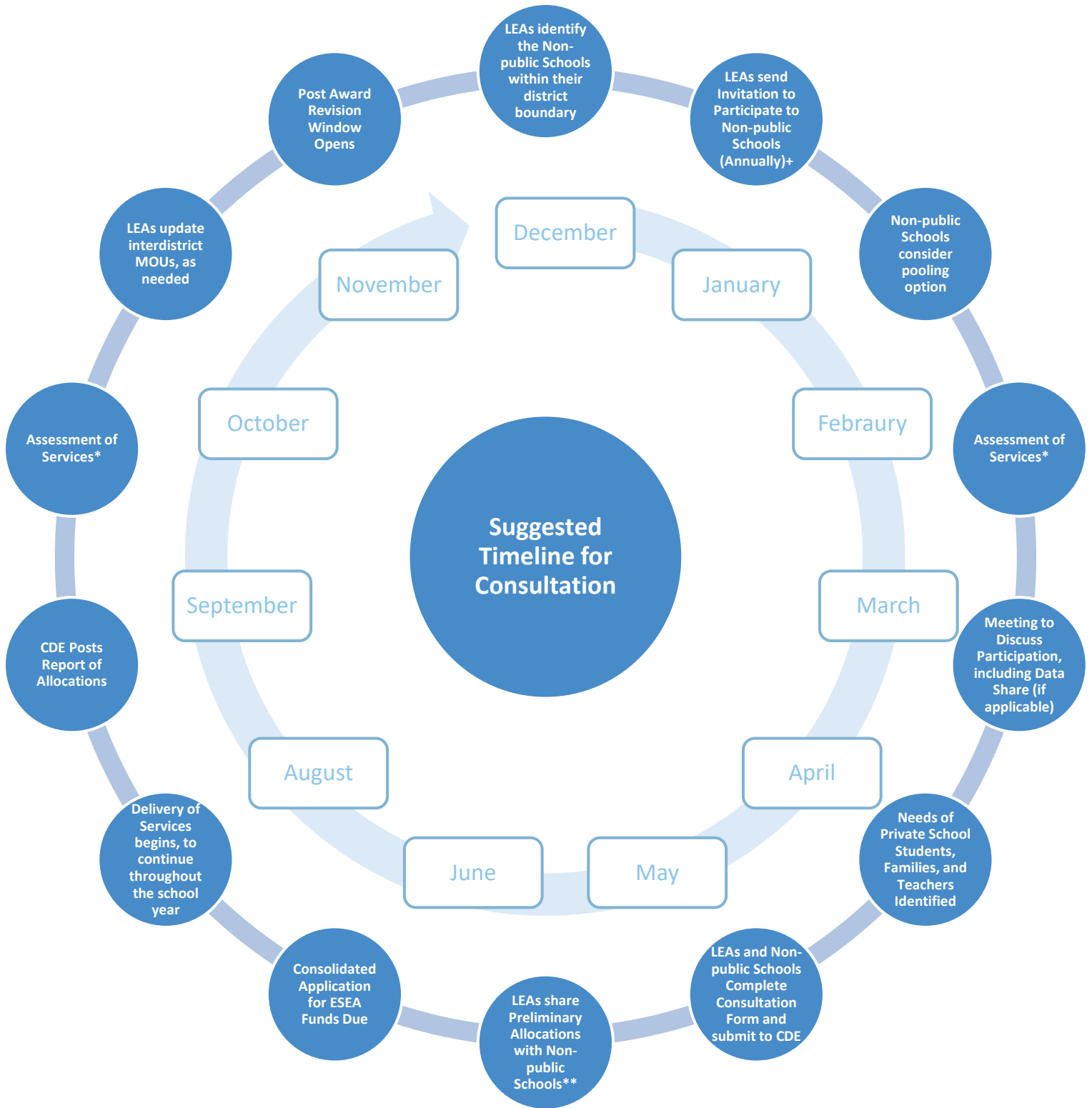
Answer: Consultation includes appropriate public school officials and representatives of private schools and their central administrative offices, if appropriate. Private school officials can facilitate meaningful consultation by informing the LEA of which private school officials should be included in the consultation process and their roles and authority.

- **Question: How long does consultation continue?**

Answer: Consultation must include early discussions to prepare for the next school year so that there is a timely start of the Title program(s) at the beginning of each school year and should continue throughout its implementation and assessment of services.



### Suggested Timeline





## **Additional Information**

- + If a non-public school has not received communication from the LEA regarding the invitation to participate during the spring, the non-public school should notify the LEA of its interest in participating in Federal programs.
- \* Assessment of services includes progress monitoring of student academic performance (pre-assessment and midyear) and the evaluation of program implementation. LEAs and private school officials should determine which party will be responsible for the activities within the assessment of services during consultation, the outcome of which should be included in the consultation form that is submitted to the Ombudsman for Equitable Services.
- \*\* Preliminary allocations are subject to change; LEAs should update participating non-public school representatives if/when allocations are updated and substantially impact the programming and ability to provide equitable services.

## **Where can I learn more?**

- Equitable Services in Colorado: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/equitableervicescolorado>
- **Contact the Ombudsman for Equitable Services:** DeLilah Collins  
[collins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:collins_d@cde.state.co.us)  
303-866-6850