

PART 693--NATIONAL EARLY INTERVENTION SCHOLARSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-21 through 1070a-27, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A--General

Sec. 693.1 What is the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership Program?

Under the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) Program, the Secretary provides grants to states to--

(a) Encourage the States to provide or maintain a guaranteed amount of financial assistance necessary to permit eligible low-income students who obtain high school diplomas or the equivalent to attend an institution of higher education; and

(b) Provide financial incentives to enable States, in cooperation with local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, community organizations, and businesses, to provide--

(1) Additional counseling, mentoring, academic support, outreach, and supportive services to preschool, elementary, middle, and secondary school students who are at risk of dropping out of school; and

(2) Information to students and their parents about the advantages of obtaining a postsecondary education and their college financing options.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-21)

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Sec. 693.2 Who is eligible to participate under this program?

(a) States that meet the requirements of Secs. 693.10, 693.11, 693.12, 693.13, 693.20 (formula grant program), 693.21, and 693.22 (discretionary grant program) are eligible to receive grants under this program.

(b) Under the early intervention component, students who meet the requirements of Sec. 693.30 are eligible to participate in the State-administered programs under this part.

(c) Under the scholarship component, students who meet the requirements of Sec. 693.40 are eligible to receive scholarships from States under this program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22 to 1070a-24)

Sec. 693.3 What kinds of activities may be assisted under this program?

Under the NEISP Program, a State may use its allotment under Sec. 693.21 or Sec. 693.22 to--

(a) Provide a variety of early intervention o Prrcomppo inrshiuch as c Tjto

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22 to 1070a-24)

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(c) *Definition in the Student Assistance General Provisions regulations, 34 CFR part 668.* The following term used in this part is defined in 34 CFR part 668:

Academic year

(d) *Other definitions that apply to this part.* The following definitions also apply to this part:

At-risk student means a preschool through grade 12 student whom a State identifies as being a potential dropout from secondary or postsecondary school.

Disadvantaged student means a student who is either (1) a low-income individual who is also a first-generation college student; or (2) a student with disabilities.

Early intervention program means a program that provides education-related activities such as counseling, mentoring, academic support, outreach, and other supportive services, including providing information on opportunities for postsecondary student financial aid, to students enrolled in preschool through grade 12.

First-generation college student means--

(1) A student neither of whose parents completed a baccalaureate degree; or

(2) A student who regularly resides with and receives support from only one parent who did not complete a baccalaureate degree.

HEA means the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Limited proficiency in English with reference to an individual, means an individual--

(1)(i) Who was not born in the United States;

(ii) Whose native language is other than English;

(iii) Who comes from an environment in which a language other than English is most relied on for communication; or

(iv) Who is an American Indian or Alaskan Native student and comes from an environment in which a language other than English has had a significant impact on his or her level of proficiency in English; and

(2) Who, as a result of the circumstances described in paragraph (1) of this definition, is unable to learn successfully in classrooms in which instruction is in English because he or she cannot adequately understand, speak, read, or write English.

Low-income individual means an individual whose taxable family income for the year before the year in which he or she is scheduled to receive assistance under this part did not exceed 150 percent of an amount equal to the poverty level determined by using criteria of poverty established by the U.S. Bureau of the Census or a resident who considered to be a low-income resident by the State in which he or she lives.

Postsecondary education means a program of education beyond the secondary school level.

Priority student means any student within a State in preschool through grade 12 who is eligible--

(1) To be counted as attending an institution receiving Federal funds under chapter 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

(2) To receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act; or

(3) To receive assistance under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Act.

Scholarship means an award made to an individual under this part.

Secondary school, as defined under section 1471(21) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, means a day or residential school that provides secondary education, as determined under State law, except that it does not include any education beyond grade 12.

State educational agency (SEA), as defined under section 1471(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, means the officer or agency primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary and secondary schools.

Student with a disability, as defined in section 3(2) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(2)), means a student with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the student and thus requires special education and related services.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-21 through 1070a-27)

Subpart B--How Does a State Obtain a Grant?

Sec. 693.10 What must a State do to obtain a grant under this program?

(a) To obtain a grant, a State shall submit to the Secretary for review and approval an initial plan and annual

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application for carrying out the activities under NEISP Program.

(b) The Secretary approves a State plan that--

(1) By direction of the State's Governor, designates as the State agency for administering the program under this part, either--

(i) The State agency that administers the State Student Incentive Grant Program under title IV, part A, subpart 4 of the HEA;

(ii) The State educational agency; or

(iii) Another appropriate State agency approved by the Secretary;

(2) Provides that the State program under this part shall be known as the "[insert name of the State] National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership Program" which may be referred to as the "[State name] NEISP Program,";

(3) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State will provide for the conduct under the State's NEISP Program of both--

(i) An early intervention component meeting the requirements under Sec. 693.11 as evaluated by the Secretary under the criteria in Sec. 693.20 (formula grant program) and Sec. 693.22 (discretionary grant program); and

(ii) A scholarship component meeting the requirements under Sec. 693.12;

(4) Describes the administrative plan for implementing the State's NEISP Program, including those functions that will be carried out by public and private organizations; and

(5) Provides assurances that the State will--

(i) Ensure that the funds provided under this part supplement and do not supplant funds expended for State and local early intervention programs and State need- and non-need-based student financial grant assistance programs during the fiscal year 2 years prior to the fiscal year in which the State first received funds under this program;

(ii) Expend, from State, local, or private funds or other acceptable funding methods, not less than one-half of the cost of the program under this part;

(iii) Specify the methods by which such share of the costs will be paid;

(iv) Not use less than 25 percent or more than 50 percent of its total NEISP Program funds for the early intervention component, unless the State can satisfactorily demonstrate in its plan submitted to the Secretary that the State has additional means to provide scholarships to students, in accordance with the waiver provision in Sec. 693.13(b);

(v) Expend all of the NEISP Program funds under the scholarship component only to provide scholarships to eligible students; and

(vi) conduct and submit to the Secretary a biennial evaluation of the early intervention program assisted under this part in accordance with the requirements in Sec. 693.52.

(c) With the exception of its initial year of participation when each State also must submit the application required under Sec. 693.13 at the same time as the State plan under paragraph (b) of this section, the State shall submit annually an application to participate in the NEISP Program in accordance with the requirements in Sec. 693.13.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22 and 1070a-26)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Sec. 693.11 What requirements must be met by the State under the program's early intervention component?

(a) A State shall demonstrate to the Secretary in its plan submitted according to Sec. 693.10(b) how its early intervention component provides services designed to meet the unique needs of the State's eligible students enrolled in preschool through grade 12. These services may include, but are not limited to, the following kinds of activities:

(1) A continuing system of mentoring and advising that--

(i) Is coordinated with the Federal and State community service initiatives; and

(ii) Includes such support services as--

(A) Instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, and other subjects necessary for success in education beyond secondary school;

(B) After-school and summer tutoring;

(C) Assistance in obtaining summer jobs;

(D) Career mentoring;

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(E) Academic counseling and assistance in secondary school course selection;

(F) Financial aid counseling that provides information on the opportunities for postsecondary student financial assistance;

(G) Instruction designed to prepare students participating in the program for careers in which students from disadvantaged backgrounds are particularly underrepresented, as determined by the State; and

(H) Programs and activities specifically designed for students with limited proficiency in English.

(2) Activities designed to ensure high school completion and college enrollment of at-risk students by providing, in addition to the activities specified under paragraph (a) of the section, the following:

(i) Assessment to identify at-risk students.

(ii) Skills assessment.

(iii) Activities to encourage volunteer and parent involvement in the activities planned under this section.

(iv) Programs that involve the participation of former or current scholarship recipients as mentors or peer counselors.

(v) Personal and family counseling, including home visits.

(vi) Staff development to provide the services under this part.

(3) Activities that encourage students to complete secondary school and pursue postsecondary education by requiring each student to enter into an agreement under which the State will provide postsecondary tuition assistance to a student, during a period of time to be established by the State, if the student agrees to achieve certain academic milestones, such as--

(i) Completing the prescribed set of secondary courses required for an individual to be eligible for a Presidential Access Scholarship under chapter 3, subpart 2, part A, title IV of the HEA; and

(ii) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress according to the requirements in 34 CFR 668.7 in a postsecondary education program.

(4) Prefreshman summer programs that--

(i) Are at institutions of higher education that also have academic support services for disadvantaged students through projects regulated by 34 CFR part 646,

Student Support Services, or through comparable projects as certified by the SEA or other appropriate State agency funded by the State or other sources;

(ii) Assure the participation of students who qualify as disadvantaged students or who are eligible for comparable programs funded by the State and certified under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section;

(iii) Provide summer services, including--

(A) Instruction in remedial, developmental, or supportive courses;

(B) Counseling, tutoring, or orientation; and

(C) Grant aid to students to cover prefreshman summer costs for books, supplies, living costs, and personal expenses; and

(iv) Assure that participating students will receive financial aid during each academic year they are enrolled at the participating institution after the prefreshman summer.

(5) Other activities as the State proposes and the Secretary approves as supportive of the purposes of the NEISP Program.

(b) The State shall indicate to the Secretary which of the following permissible service providers will conduct the early intervention component activities:

(1) Community-based organizations.

(2) Elementary or secondary schools.

(3) Institutions of higher education.

(4) Public and private agencies.

(5) Nonprofit and philanthropic organizations.

(6) Businesses.

(7) Institutions and agencies sponsoring programs authorized under the State Student Incentive Grant Program, subpart 4, part A, title IV, of the HEA.

(8) Institutions and agencies sponsoring programs authorized under the Federal TRIO Programs, chapter 1, subpart 2, part A, title IV of the HEA.

(9) Religious organizations.

(10) Other organizations proposed by the State that are subsequently deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

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(c) The State shall describe how the service providers listed in paragraph (b) of this section will administer the early intervention component activities.

(d) The State shall propose for review by and approval of the Secretary the methods by which it will target its early intervention services on priority students.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-23)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Sec. 693.12 What requirements must be met by the State under the program's scholarship component?

A State shall provide for a scholarship component that--

(a) As described in the State's plan approved by the Secretary under 693.10, is closely coordinated with other Federal, State, local, and private scholarship programs within the State;

(b) Awards scholarships only to students who meet the eligibility requirements in 693.40;

(c) Places a priority on awarding scholarships to students who will receive Federal Pell Grant awards for the academic year in which the award is being made under this part by--

(1) Selecting those eligible students who will receive Federal Pell Grants and who--

(i) Have the lowest expected family contributions as calculated under part F of title IV of the HEA; or

(ii) Are the neediest students as prioritized under the State's criteria for low-income students if the State's criteria are approved by the Secretary; and

(2) If the State has NEISP Program scholarship funds remaining after making NEISP awards to all of the eligible Federal Pell Grant recipients, awarding the remaining NEISP Program scholarship funds to those eligible students who will not receive Federal Pell Grant awards and who--

(i) Have the lowest expected family contributions; or

(ii) Are the neediest students as prioritized under the State's criteria for low-income students if the State's criteria are approved by the Secretary;

(d) Awards continuation scholarships in successive award years to each student who received an

initial scholarship and who continues to meet the student eligibility requirements under Sec. 693.40;

(e) Establishes the maximum amount of a scholarship that each eligible student is to receive and ensures that no scholarship is less than the lesser of--

(1) 75 percent of the average cost of attendance, as determined under section 472, part F of the HEA, for an in-State student in a 4-year program of instruction at public institutions of higher education in the State; or

(2) The maximum Federal Pell Grant award funded for that fiscal year;

(f) Ensures that, for each recipient of a scholarship under this part who is eligible for and receiving other postsecondary student financial assistance, a Federal Pell Grant be awarded first, other public and private grant and scholarship assistance be awarded second, a scholarship under this part be awarded third, and then other financial assistance be awarded;

(g) Ensures that no scholarship awarded under this part, combined with other title IV, HEA financial assistance and any other grant or scholarship assistance exceeds the student's total cost of attendance, as determined under section 472, part F of the HEA;

(h) Expends all NEISP Program funds under the scholarship component, as determined according to Sec. 693.10(b)(5)(iv), on scholarships to students;

(i) Notifies recipients of scholarships under this part that they are to be known as "[insert name of the State] National Partnership Scholars"; and

(j) Describe to the satisfaction of the Secretary the procedures the State will use to award scholarships to eligible students in the event that the State receives reduced or no Federal funding under the NEISP Program during any fiscal year.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-24)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Sec. 693.13 What information must a State provide in its annual application to receive a grant under the NEISP Program?

(a) Each State desiring to participate in the program under this part shall submit an application annually through the state agency designated to administer the NEISP Program under Sec. 693.10(b) that contains information required by the Secretary to demonstrate that the State meets its fund-matching assurances provided for in its plan, including--

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(1) The total amount of non-Federal funds, listed by each source, that the State expects to expend during the next award year that will total one-half or more of the cost of the NEISP Program such as--

(i) The amount of the scholarships paid to students from State, local, or private funds under the NEISP Program;

(ii) The amount of tuition, fees, room, or board waived or reduced for recipients of grants under the NEISP Program; and

(iii) The amount expended on documented, targeted, long-term mentoring and counseling provided by volunteers or paid staff of nonschool organizations, including businesses, religious organizations, community groups, postsecondary educational institutions, nonprofit or philanthropic organizations, and other organizations proposed by the State and approved by the Secretary;

(2) A description of the specific methods by which the State's share of the costs under the NEISP Program will be paid;

(3) The percentage of the State's Federal allotment that it plans to expend for the early intervention component of its NEISP Program and, if the State requests a waiver from the Secretary under paragraph (b) of this section, the State shall submit supporting documentation, including the amount and source of its additional assistance;

(4) The documentation that assures the Secretary that the amount of funds provided in paragraph (a)(1) of this section will supplement and not supplant funds expended for State and local early intervention programs and State need- and non-need-based student financial grant and scholarship assistance expended during the fiscal year 2 years prior to the fiscal year in which the State first received funds under this program; and

(5)(i) Proposed changes to the initial State plan that was approved by the Secretary, according to Sec. 693.10(b), for the review and approval of the Secretary; or

(ii) If no changes to its initial plan are proposed, an assurance that the State will continue to operate its NEISP Program according to the existing State plan approved by the Secretary under Sec. 693.10(b).

(b) The Secretary waives the requirement in Sec. 693.10(b)(5)(iv) and allows the State to exceed the 50 percent limit on expenditure of its Federal allotment for the early intervention component if the State can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State has another adequate means to provide scholarships to eligible students under the NEISP Program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Subpart C--How Does the Secretary Make a Grant to a State?

Sec. 693.20 What criteria does the Secretary use to determine whether a State's proposed early intervention component meets the requirements under this program as a formula grant program?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to determine whether a State's early intervention component proposed under Sec. 693.10(b)(3)(i) meets the requirements of Sec. 693.11:

(a) *Plan of operation.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows the quality of the operating plan of the early intervention component.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) High quality in the design of the component;

(ii) An effective plan of management that ensures proper and efficient administration of the component;

(iii) A clear description of how the State's proposed early intervention component relates to the purpose of the program;

(iv) The way that the State plans to use its resources and personnel to achieve the objectives of the component;

(v) A clear description of the methods that the State will use to target early intervention services to priority students. The State must base the proposed methods on the latest available State data. The State may target services on priority students by--

(A) Elementary and secondary schools with high concentrations of priority students within the State;

(B) Appropriate identifiable geographic areas such as counties or school districts (including both public and private schools) with high concentrations of priority students within the State; or

(C) Other methods proposed by a State and approved by the Secretary;

(vi) A clear description of the comprehensive long-term mentoring and advising that the State plans to provide to eligible students; and

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(vii) The extent to which other State grant funds are available to eligible NEISP students for postsecondary educational scholarships if the Federal scholarship component of the program is unfunded or reduced.

(b) *Quality of key personnel.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State plan for information that shows the qualifications of the key personnel the State plans to use to administer its early intervention component.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The qualifications of the director of the early intervention component;

(ii) The qualifications of each of the other key personnel to be used in the component; and

(iii) The amount of time each person referred to in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section will spend working in the activities under this component.

(3) To determine the qualifications of the key personnel, the Secretary considers evidence of past experience and training in fields related to the objectives of the early intervention component as well as other information the State provides.

(c) *Budget and cost effectiveness.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows that the early intervention component has an adequate budget and is cost-effective.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The budget for the project is adequate to support the early intervention component activities; and

(ii) Costs are reasonable in relation to the activities under the component.

(3) The Secretary reviews the State's budget for the early intervention component to verify that not more than 50 percent of the State's allotment is projected to be spent on its early intervention component unless the State requests and is granted a waiver under Sec. 693.13(b).

(d) *Adequacy of resources.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows that the State plans to devote adequate resources to its early intervention component.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The facilities that the State plans to use are adequate; and

(ii) The equipment and supplies that the State plans to use are adequate.

(e) *Need for the program.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows the need for the early intervention component and the methods for targeting its early intervention component activities on eligible students.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The number and percentage of students who are eligible to be served by the State's early intervention component, including students who are priority students and students who are disadvantaged;

(ii) The extent to which the State documents its need for the services and activities that the State proposes to provide under its early intervention component;

(iii) The ratio of secondary school counselors to all students and to early intervention eligible students, if the data is available;

(iv) For each of the 3 preceding years, if available, the estimated dropout rates for the State, including the dropout rate for all students and for students eligible for the early intervention component as proposed by the State; and

(v) For each of the 3 preceding years, if available, the estimated number and percentage of students in the State who enrolled in postsecondary institutions for--

(A) All students who were eligible to enroll; and

(B) Students who would have been eligible for the State's proposed early intervention component.

(f) *Likelihood for success.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State plan for information that shows the likelihood of success of its early intervention component.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows the extent to which the State's early intervention component is likely to--

(i) Enable the participants to develop academic skills, such as reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills, that are essential for postsecondary education;

(ii) Improve academic skills and motivate the participants to complete a secondary educational program and subsequently gain admission to postsecondary education institutions; and

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(iii) Increase the secondary and postsecondary readmission rates of those participants who have not completed secondary or postsecondary education.

(3) The Secretary also looks for information that shows how comprehensively the State's proposed early intervention component--

(i) Identifies and selects eligible participants;

(ii) Diagnoses each participant's need for academic support in order to successfully pursue a program of postsecondary education;

(iii) Develops a plan of program support to improve each participant's skills; and

(iv) Provides the services and activities listed in Sec. 693.11(a) that relate to the goals of the NEISP Program.

(g) *Public and private support.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows how the State will put in place a partnership of public and private organizations within the State to administer the early intervention component of the program under this part.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) the extent to which the State has received and has included in its plan written commitments by organizations that will provide early intervention services under Sec. 693.11(b); and

(ii) The existence of a plan to inform the residents of the State of the NEISP Program services and eligibility criteria.

(h) *Coordination with other early intervention activities.* (1) the Secretary reviews each State's plan for information that shows how the State will coordinate its early intervention component with existing early intervention activities within the State.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The extent to which the State has investigated early intervention program activity and included in its plan the number and types of currently operating public and private early intervention programs within the State;

(ii) The extent to which the State's proposed plan will supplement existing Federal, State, local, and private early intervention programs within the State, such as the Federal Head Start, Chapter 1 Program in Local Educational Agencies, and TRIO programs; and

(iii) The written plans and commitments submitted to the State by other early intervention program providers that the State plans to use as either early intervention service providers under Sec. 693.11(b) or as support organizations for those service providers.

(i) *Evaluation report plan.* (1) The Secretary reviews each State's plan to evaluate the quality of the proposed biennial evaluation report of the early intervention component of the program.

(2) The Secretary looks for information that shows--

(i) The quality of the design of the component;

(ii) the extent that the methods of evaluation are appropriate for the program and the extent they are objective and produce useful data that are quantifiable;

(iii) The State's commitment to design an evaluation report to measure objectively performance against, at a minimum, the following standards:

(A) The effectiveness of the State's program in meeting the purposes of the program.

(B) The effect of the program on the student recipients being served by the program.

(C) The barriers to the effectiveness of the program and recommendations for changes or improvements to the program.

(D) The cost-effectiveness of the program.

(E) The extent to which the student recipients comply with the requirements of the program; and

(iv) Any other pertinent program measurements concerning the early intervention component that the State believes would be useful to the Secretary, which may be displayed through analytical charts, tables, and graphs.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-23)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Sec. 693.21 How does the Secretary allot funds to a State?

(a) If the amount appropriated for the program under this part for a fiscal year is \$50,000,000 or more, the Secretary allots to each State that has submitted an approved plan under Sec. 693.10 and an approved application under Sec. 693.13, an amount that bears the same ratio to the total appropriation as the amount allocated

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to the LEAs in the State under 34 CFR part 200 bears to the total amount allocated to all LEAs in all States using the most recently available data.

(b) If the amount appropriated for the program under this part for a fiscal year is less than \$50,000,000, the Secretary allots funds to each State in accordance with the provisions in Sec. 693.22.

(c) From the allotment calculated in this section, the Secretary disburses to a State an amount equal to not more than one-half of the total amount of funds from all sources the State projects that it will spend on its NEISP Program for a fiscal year as reported on its annual application under Sec. 693.13(a).

(d) A State may expend from its Federal allotment no more than one-half of the total amount of funds that State expends under its NEISP Program for that fiscal year.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-25)

Sec. 693.22 How does the Secretary allot funds to States on a competitive basis?

(a) The Secretary allots funds to States under this program on a competitive basis if the program appropriation for a fiscal year is less than \$50,000,000.

(b) The Secretary conducts a grant competition for the States by means of a notice published in the **Federal Register** that contains the information needed by a State to apply for funds under a discretionary NEISP Program competition. The Secretary evaluates a State's application for funds under a discretionary NEISP Program competition on the basis of the extent to which the State fulfills the requirements listed in Secs. 693.10, 693.11, 693.12, and 693.13, and the selection criteria in this section.

(c)(1) The Secretary uses the selection criteria in paragraph (d) of this section to evaluate applications for grants under this program.

(2) The maximum score, not including prior grant recipient priority points in paragraph (d)(12) of this section, for all of these criteria is 140 points.

(3) The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses in paragraph (d) of this section.

(4) In the final selection of similarly rated applications, the Secretary considers the extent to which a State provides--

(i) A comprehensive State-wide early intervention and postsecondary educational scholarship program;

(ii) Eligible students with comprehensive long-term mentoring and advising; and

(iii) Eligible students with State grant funds for their postsecondary education as compared to the other States who apply for grant funds.

(d)(1) *Need for the program.* (20 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows the need for the State-wide early intervention component and the methods for targeting its early intervention component activities on eligible students including consideration of--

(i) The number and percentage of students who are eligible to be served by the State's early intervention component, including students who are priority students and students who are disadvantaged;

(ii) The extent to which the State documents its need for the services and activities that the State proposes to provide under its early intervention component;

(iii) The ratio of secondary school counselors to all students and to early intervention eligible students, if the data is available;

(iv) For each of the three preceding years, if available, the estimated dropout rates for the State, including the dropout rate for all students and for students eligible for the early intervention component as proposed by the State; and

(v) For each of the three preceding years, if available, the estimated number and percentage of students in the State who enrolled in postsecondary institutions for--

(A) All students who were eligible to enroll; and

(B) Students who would have been eligible for the State's proposed early intervention component; and

(vi) Describes the procedures the State will use to award postsecondary education scholarships to eligible students in the event that the State receives reduced or no Federal funding under the NEISP Program during any fiscal year.

(2) *Plan of operation.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows the quality of the operating plan of the State-wide early intervention component, including--

(i) (3 points) The quality of the design of the component;

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(ii) (3 points) An effective plan of management that ensures proper and efficient administration of the component;

(iii) (3 points) A clear description of how the State's proposed early intervention component relates to the purpose of the program;

(iv) (3 points) The way that the State plans to use its resources and personnel to achieve the objectives of the component;

(v) (3 points) A clear description of the methods that the State will use to target early intervention services to priority students. The State must base the proposed methods on the latest available State data. The State may target services on priority students by--

(A) Elementary and secondary schools with high concentrations of priority students within the State;

(B) Appropriate identifiable geographic areas such as counties or school districts (including both public and private schools) with high concentrations of priority students within the State; or

(C) Other methods proposed by a State and approved by the Secretary;

(vi) (7 points) A clear description of the comprehensive long-term mentoring and advising that the State plans to provide to eligible students; and

(vii) (8 points) The extent to which other State grant funds are available to eligible NEISP students for their postsecondary education if the Federal scholarship component of the program is unfunded or reduced.

(3) *Quality of key personnel.* (10 points) (i) The Secretary reviews each State application for information that shows the qualifications of the key personnel the State plans to use to administer its State-wide early intervention component including--

(A) The qualifications of the director of the early intervention component;

(B) The qualifications of each of the other key personnel to be used in the component; and

(C) The amount of time each person referred to in paragraphs (d)(3)(i)(A) and (B) of this section will spend working in the activities under this component.

(ii) To determine the qualifications of the key personnel, the Secretary considers evidence of past experience and training in fields related to the objectives of the early intervention component as well as other information the State provides.

(4) *Budget and cost effectiveness.* (5 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows that the early intervention component has an adequate budget and is cost-effective including--

(i) The budget for the project is adequate to support the early intervention component activities; and

(ii) Costs are reasonable in relation to the activities under the component.

(5) *Adequacy of resources.* (5 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows that the State plans to devote adequate resources to its early intervention component including--

(i) The facilities that the State plans to use are adequate; and

(ii) The equipment and supplies that the State plans to use are adequate.

(6) *Likelihood for success.* (20 points) The Secretary reviews each State application for information that shows the extent to which the State's early intervention component is likely to--

(i) Enable the participants to develop academic skills, such as reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills, that are essential for postsecondary education;

(ii) Improve academic skills and motivate the participants to complete a secondary educational program and subsequently gain admission to postsecondary education institutions;

(iii) Increase the secondary and postsecondary readmission rates of those participants who have not completed secondary or postsecondary education;

(iv) Identify and select eligible participants;

(v) Diagnose each participant's need for academic support in order to successfully pursue a program of postsecondary education; and

(vi) Develop a plan of program support to improve each participant's skills.

(7) *Public and private support.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows how the State will put in place a partnership of public and private organizations within the State to administer the early intervention component of the program including--

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(i) The extent to which the State has received and has included in its plan written commitments by organizations that will provide early intervention services; and

(ii) The existence of a plan to inform the residents of the State of the NEISP Program services and eligibility criteria.

(8) *Coordination with other early intervention activities.* (15 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application for information that shows how the State will coordinate its early intervention component with existing early intervention activities within the State including--

(i) The extent to which the State has investigated early intervention program activity and included in its plan the number and types of currently operating public and private early intervention programs within the State;

(ii) The extent to which the State's proposed plan will supplement existing Federal, State, local, and private early intervention programs within the State, such as the Federal Head Start, Chapter 1 Program in Local Educational Agencies, and TRIO programs; and

(iii) The written plans and commitments submitted to the State by other early intervention program providers that the State plans to use as either early intervention service providers or as support organizations for those service providers.

(9) *Willingness to overmatch.* (10 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application to determine whether the State is willing to contribute more than one-half the cost of the program and the extent to which the State will overmatch its Federal allotment.

(10) *Evaluation report plan.* (10 points) The Secretary reviews each State's application to evaluate the quality of the proposed biennial evaluation report of the early intervention component of the program including--

(i) The quality of the design of the component;

(ii) The extent that the methods of evaluation are appropriate for the program and the extent they are objective and produce useful data that are quantifiable; and

(iii) The State's commitment to design an evaluation report to measure objectively performance against, at a minimum, the following standards:

(A) The effectiveness of the State's program in meeting the purposes of the program.

(B) The effect of the program on the student recipients being served by the program.

(C) The barriers to the effectiveness of the program and recommendations for changes or improvements to the program.

(D) The cost-effectiveness of the program.

(E) The extent to which the student recipients comply with the requirements of the program; and

(iv) Any other pertinent program measurements concerning the early intervention component that the State believes would be useful to the Secretary, which may be displayed through analytical charts, tables, and graphs.

(11) *Prior experience.* (20 points) In any award year subsequent to the 1994-95 award year, the initial year for which Federal funds were appropriated for this program, the Secretary gives priority to each State applicant that has conducted a NEISP Program within the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year for which the State applicant is applying in accordance with the following procedures:

(i) To determine the number of priority points to be awarded each eligible State applicant, the Secretary considers the State's prior experience of program participation in accordance with paragraphs (d)(11)(ii) and (iii) of this section.

(ii) The Secretary may add from one to twenty points to the point score obtained on the basis of the selection criteria, based on the State applicant's success in meeting the administrative requirements and programmatic objectives of paragraph (d)(11)(iii) of this section.

(iii) The Secretary--based on information contained in one or more of the following: Performance reports, audit reports, site visit reports, program evaluation reports, the previously funded application, the negotiated program plan or plans, previous State matching funds, and the application under consideration--considers information that shows--

(A) (5 points) The extent to which the State's program has served the number of student participants it was funded to serve;

(B) (5 points) The extent to which the State's program has achieved the goals and objectives as stated in the previously funded application or negotiated program plan;

(C) (5 points) The extent to which the State has met the administrative requirements--including recordkeeping, reporting, and financial accountability--under the terms of the previously funded award; and

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(D) (5 points) The extent to which the State has provided funds to match its Federal allotment.

(e) The Secretary disburses to each State selected in the competition conducted under paragraph (b) of this section an amount equal to not more than one-half of the total amount of funds from all sources the State projects that it will expend on its NEISP Program for a fiscal year as reported on its annual application under Sec. 693.13(a)(1).

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-25)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0677)

Subpart D--How Does a Student Participate in the Early Intervention Component Under the NEISP Program?

Sec. 693.30 What are the requirements for a student to be a participant in the early intervention component of this program?

The State agency administering the NEISP Program, as approved by the Secretary under Sec. 693.10(b)(1), shall select students in preschool through grade 12 to participate in the State's early intervention component, each of whom--

(a)(1) Is a citizen or a national of the United States;

(2) Is a permanent resident of the United States;

(3) Provides evidence from the Immigration and Naturalization Service that he or she is in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident; or

(4) Is a permanent resident of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(b) Is, at the time of initial selection, a priority student, an at-risk student, a disadvantaged student, or a student with a limited proficiency in English;

(c) Has a need for academic support, as determined by the State, to pursue his or her education successfully;

(d) Resides within the State;

(e) Is not currently enrolled in a program of postsecondary education;

(f) Meets such other criteria as the State includes in its plan in order to meet the unique needs of the State and that are approved by the Secretary; and

(g) For an otherwise eligible student who is attending secondary school, is a student whom the State determines can reasonably be expected to meet the student eligibility requirements of 34 CFR 668.7 for Federal student financial assistance and such other requirements as necessary to qualify for State, local, or private student financial assistance at such time as the student enrolls in postsecondary education.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-23)

Subpart E--How Does a State Award a Scholarship to a Student?

Sec. 693.40 What are the requirements for a student to receive a scholarship under this program?

To be eligible for a scholarship under the scholarship component for this program, a student must--

(a) Apply for the scholarship by following the application procedures and deadlines established by the State agency approved by the Secretary under Sec. 693.10(b)(1) to administer the NEISP Program in the State in which the individual resides;

(b) Meet the relevant eligibility requirements contained in 34 CFR 668.7;

(c) Be less than 22 years old at the time his or her first scholarship is awarded;

(d) Have a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence received on or after January 1, 1993;

(e) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a program of instruction at an institution of higher education that is located within the State's boundaries, except that a State, at its option, may offer such a scholarship to a student who attends an eligible institution of higher education outside the State;

(f) If a State includes academic milestones in a student agreement under Sec. 693.11(a)(3) and requires the student to meet the milestones to be eligible for a scholarship, have met or exceeded the academic milestones to receive a scholarship; and

(g)(1) Have participated in the early intervention component of the program under this part;

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(2) At the State's option, be a student whom the State documents as having successfully participated in a Federal Upward Bound Program funded under section 402C, chapter 1, subpart 2, part A of title IV of the HEA as determined by an administrator of the Federal Upward Bound program in which the student participated; or

(3) At the State's option, be a student whom the State determines as having successfully participated in an early intervention program comparable to the early intervention component of the program under this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-24)

Subpart F--What Postaward Conditions Must be met by a State?

Sec. 693.50 What are allowable costs attributable to administration of the early intervention component?

A State may use its NEISP Program funds for the following allowable costs not specifically covered by 34 CFR parts 76 or 80 that are reasonably related to carrying out the early intervention component of the NEISP Program:

- (a) In-service training of project staff.
- (b) Transportation and meal costs for participants and staff for--
 - (1) Approved visits to postsecondary educational institutions in the area;
 - (2) Participation in "College Days" and "College Fair" activities; and
 - (3) Field trips to observe and meet with people who are employed in various career fields and who can act as role models for early intervention participants.
- (c) Purchasing testing materials.
- (d) Admission fees, transportation, and other costs necessary to participate in field trips, attend educational activities, visit museums, and attend other events that have as their purpose the intellectual, social, and cultural development of early intervention participants.
- (e) Courses in English language instruction for participants with limited proficiency in English, if these classes are limited to early intervention component participants and if these classes are not otherwise available to those participants.

(f) For participants in an early intervention residential summer activity, room and board--computed on a weekly basis--not to exceed the weekly rate a host institution charges regularly enrolled students at the institution.

(g) Room and board for those people responsible for dormitory supervision of early intervention component participants during a residential summer activity.

(h) Transportation costs of early intervention component participants for regularly scheduled component activities.

(i) Transportation, meals, and overnight accommodations for staff members if they are required to accompany participants in program activities such as field trips.

(j) Costs of remedial and special classes if--

(1) These classes are limited to early intervention component participants; and

(2) Identical instruction is not readily available through another Federal program or a State, local, or privately funded program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22)

Sec. 693.51 What are nonallowable costs that may not be charged to administration of the early intervention component?

A State may not use its NEISP Program funds for costs incurred for the early intervention component of the NEISP Program such as--

- (a) Duplication of services that are available to participants through--
 - (1) State, local, or private sources not included in the State plan under Sec. 693.11; or
 - (2) Other Federal programs, such as projects under the Federal TRIO programs;
- (b) Research not directly related to the evaluation or improvement of the program;
- (c) Purchase of any equipment, unless the State demonstrates to the Secretary's satisfaction that purchase is less expensive than renting or leasing;
- (d) Meals for program staff except as provided in Sec. 693.50.

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(e) Clothing;

(f) Construction, renovation, or remodeling of any facilities; or

(g) Tuition, stipends, or any other form of student financial support for program staff.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-22)

Sec. 693.52 What requirements must a State meet in preparing and submitting an evaluation report?

(a) Each State receiving an allotment under this part shall prepare and submit to the Secretary every two years an evaluation of the early intervention component of its NEISP Program. The report must summarize and evaluate a State's activities under the program and the performance of the student participants. Each State's evaluation report design must include measures that permit the State to track all participating students progress throughout each student's participation in the program.

(b) The biennial evaluation report of the early intervention component of the program must include, but is not limited to--

(1) Quantifiable information on the extent to which the State's program is fulfilling the program objectives;

(2) The effect of the program on the student recipients being served by the program, including measurable outcomes such as improved academic performance, increased postsecondary education enrollment and retention, increased elementary and secondary school grade retention, reduced elementary and secondary school dropout rates, and reduced financial barriers to attendance at institutions of higher education;

(3) The barriers of the effectiveness of the program and recommendations for changes or improvements to the program;

(4) The cost-effectiveness of the program;

(5) The extent to which the student recipients comply with the requirements of the program;

(6) Key program information listed on an annual and biennial basis;

(7) Other pertinent program measurements concerning the early intervention component that the State believes would be useful to the Secretary, which may be displayed through analytical charts, tables, and graphs; and

(8) Any other information required by the Secretary in order to carry out the evaluation report function.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a-26)

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