

NYS Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools

Title IIA & Title IV Consolidation

Q & A

***What does it mean to consolidate funds with NYSCIRS?***

 Under guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Nonpublic Schools and the New York State Education Department, as part of the Consolidated Application, nonpublic schools wishing to participate in common activities may direct local public school districts to purchase services from a common agency (NYSCIRS). Independent and Religious School in New York can have access to their funds for a variety of professional development activities including activities with other schools located in different districts.

***When and How do I designate NYSCIRS as the Title IIA and/or Title IV funds manager?***

 After July 1st but before August 30 the principal of the nonpublic school sends a letter on school letterhead to the Superintendent of the district requesting the district forward the Title IIA funds designated for said school to NYSCIRS. This notification is to happen

1. after consultation with the district and
2. after the principal has a signed copy of the completed ***Private School Participation Form***  section of the title grant application.

The principal then sends a copy of the Private School Participation Form to NYSCIRS.

NYSCIRS will then invoice the district on behalf of the school for the Title IIA funds.

***What is Meaningful Consultation with the Local Educational Agency (LEA)?***

 **BEFORE** the Title grant is submitted the superintendent (or designee) from the district where your school is located is required to have consultation meetings with you. These meetings should include a discussion as to how you would like to spend your title funds. It is helpful to have completed the ***Title IIA Needs Assessment1*** prior to this meeting. At the conclusion of the summer consultation meeting you may be asked to sign the ***Private School Participation Form. Please do not sign a blank form!*** Ask for a copy of the complete and signed form before leaving the meeting.

***How is Professional Development arranged?***

 The principal of the NPS can arrange professional development at their discretion following the guidelines outlined below.

***How is Professional Development services paid for?***

 The principal or their designee must complete the ***Request for Title IIA Funds2*** and submit it with supporting documentation to NYSCIRS. Professional development (workshops, consultants, and conferences) should be paid with a ***purchase order*** from the school, with the ***bill to portion*** addressed to NYSCIRS.

***What is the benefit of using NYSCIRS over your LEA or BOCES?***

NYSCIRS is an organization specifically for the independent and religious schools in NYS. By having your funds sent to NYSCIRS you are

1. eliminating the burden on the LEA for coordination of your Professional Development;
2. given autonomy to plan and implement the Professional Development that is specific to the teachers needs in your school;
3. able to work with schools in other LEA jurisdictions for coordinated Professional Development;
4. given ***NYSCIRS Protocols3*** for the accounting of the Title IIA funds.

***How is NYSCIRS different than BOCES?***

Principals have the ability to use their Title IIA & Title IV money on any allowable (see link below) professional development. For example hiring speakers, coaches or experts from a variety of organizations. The professional development will be geared to your teacher's specific needs, not one size fits all programming.

***How can Title IIA money be used?***

Schools that direct their Title IIa & Title IV funds to NYCIRS for the purpose of arranging professional development services will be able to arrange for any of the expenses allowed under state and federal law.  They would include the following allowable expenses which can be found here - <https://www.nyscirs.org/get-involved>.