



Daniel Heimpel &lt;dheimpel@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Your Inquiry - ESSA compliance**

1 message

---

**Bill Ainsworth** <BAinsworth@cde.ca.gov>  
To: "D. Heimpel" <dheimpel@fosteringmediaconnections.org>

Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 3:37 PM

Hi Daniel,

Thanks for your inquiry.

You are welcome to quote any part of this email and attribute it to me.

The California Department of Education is not out of compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We take this, and every law seriously. Furthermore, we are excited about the new opportunities, the new flexibility, and the new emphasis on local control that is part of ESSA.

As you stated, ESSA requires all districts to have plans regarding transportation of foster youth by December 12, 2016. The requirement for a plan for the transportation of foster youth to their school of origin is new work at the federal and state levels. Of course, California will comply with the law. At this time, the formal role for state education agencies has yet to be fully identified by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in statute, regulation and guidance, and California Department of Education (CDE) staff have approached ED legal counsel for additional clarity over the last year.

It is the goal of the CDE to provide leadership and technical assistance to Local Education Agencies as they develop meaningful plans for our foster youth. Of course, CDE want these districts to have plans and we will assist them any way that we can in developing these plans. We all want to serve foster youth as much as we can as they are some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Furthermore, CDE is a strong supporter of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which provides extra resources to educate our foster youth.

There may be some confusion about the deadlines and the various roles each government agency has in putting these plans together. Consequently, today we have sent out a letter to the County Offices of Education clarifying the situation. I have attached that letter.

In addition, there is and never has been any chance of confusion over these deadlines putting \$1.8 billion of Title I funding at risk. Title I funding is distributed through a formula. The federal government can, but rarely uses these funds to require compliance with federal laws. If they do, however, the first step is a warning by placing a condition on the distribution of funds. There have been no conditions placed on Title I funds because there has been no violation of ESSA.

California is submitting its state ESSA plan in September as allowed under federal law, and we will continue to work with county offices of education, local educational agencies and advocates to support the implementation of these provisions in ESSA.

Thanks,

Bill Ainsworth, communications director

California Department of Education

[916-319-0818](tel:916-319-0818)

**For my next story my questions are:**

1. What is CDE doing to ensure compliance, and what is the timeline?
2. Has CDE sought and/or been granted any relief on the deadline by the US Dept. of Education?
3. Is CDE concerned about potential penalties to its Title I grant award?

I can be reached directly at [415-637-9959](tel:415-637-9959).

Thank you,

Daniel Heimpel



**Dear Foster Care Coordinators for County Education Offices.docx**  
13K