




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools and Headmasters of Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: November 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Connecticut State Department of Education's Ombudsman

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, contains provisions governing equitable services for eligible private school students, teachers and other educational personnel, and families under Title I, Part A and programs covered under Title VIII, Part F. A state educational agency must designate an ombudsman to monitor and enforce the ESEA equitable services requirements.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has designated **Adrian R. Wood, Ph.D., State Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, as the CSDE's Equitable Services Ombudsman.** Dr. Wood will serve as the CSDE's primary point of contact for addressing questions and concerns from private school officials and school districts regarding the provision of equitable services under Title I, Part A and Title VIII, Part F.

New Requirements

Sections 1117(a)(4)(C) and 8501(a)(4)(C) of the ESEA requires state educational agencies to provide notice in a timely manner to appropriate private school officials in the state of the allocation of funds for educational services and other benefits under each ESEA program that a local educational agency has determined are available for eligible private school children, teachers and other education personnel, and families.

The ESEA maintains the requirement for local educational agencies and private school officials to engage in timely and meaningful consultation prior to finalizing any decisions that affect opportunities for eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel to participate in the ESEA programs. The consultation process must continue throughout the implementation and evaluation of such programs and services. Section 1117(b)(1) requires that the results of any agreement following consultation must be transmitted to the CSDE's Ombudsman.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact **Dr. Wood, at 860-713-6795 or via e-mail at adrian.wood@ct.gov.** The CSDE looks forward to working with its school districts on the provision of equitable services under the ESEA to address the needs of students in private schools.

DRW:nwt

cc: Ellen E. Cohn, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Melissa Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, Academic Office
Dr. Adrian R. Wood, Education Consultant