English

Federal Requirements for Providing Equitable Public School Services to Private Schools and Private School Ombudsman Information

Havre Public Schools

Federal Requirements for Providing Equitable Public School Services to Private Schools and Private School Ombudsman Information

Date Sent: _____
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Private School Official(s):

Our school district receives federal education funds under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended (2015),* the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA),* and other federally funded programs. ESEA programs that we may receive funding for include Title I, Part A; Title I, Part C – Migrant Education; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education; Title II, Part A – Teacher and School Leaders; Title III, Part A – English Learners; Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment; Title IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

The following federal requirements govern the provision of federally funded services by the public school district to eligible private school students, staff, and parents:

- The public school district must annually offer federally funded services to private school children but the private school may decline all or some services.
- Federally funded services are provided to individual eligible students, rather than the general needs of children in the private school.
- Federally funded services provided by the school district are totally separate from the private school's general educational program and are under the sole control of the school district.
- Services are offered by the school district on an equitable basis to private school students, are comparable to services offered to public school students, and shall be secular, neutral, and non-ideological.
- The school district maintains ownership of and continuing administrative control of all, if any, equipment and supplies acquired with federal funds.
- Such equipment and supplies are to be used for federal program purposes and will be removed by the district when they are no longer needed for those purposes or if removal is necessary to avoid unauthorized use.
- Federal funds may not be used for any repairs, remodeling, or construction in any private school facility.
- Private school teachers who have eligible children in their classes are allowed to participate in the school district's federally funded professional development program.
- Parents of eligible private school students are allowed to participate in school district federally funded parent and family engagement activities on an equitable basis.
- The private school is not required to provide space for federally funded services, nor is the school district required to provide services at the private school facility.
- The school district must give thorough consideration and analysis of the preference by the private school regarding the provision of services; however, the public school district must make the final decision in respect to the services it will provide.

Private school officials have the right to file a complaint with the State Education Agency if they feel the school district did not complete consultation in a timely and meaningful manner, did not give due consideration to the views of the private school official, or did not make a decision that treats the private school or its students equitably.

The ESEA requires that the State Education Agency appoint a Private School Ombudsman who serves as the primary point of contact for addressing questions and concerns from private school officials and school districts. The role of the Ombudsman is to monitor and enforce ESEA equitable services requirements to help ensure that equitable services and other benefits are provided to eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, and families.

If you have questions or concerns not being addressed by the school district, or would like to file a complaint, please contact the State Education Agency Private School Ombudsman.

Private School Ombudsman contact: Zachariah Hawkins

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