

Alaska ESEA Flexibility Waiver and Highly Qualified FAQs

What provisions relating to highly qualified teachers changes and what remained the same?

Districts no longer need to submit the LEA Plan for Highly Qualified Teachers (required under ESEA section 2141(a), (b), and (c)). All other requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) remain.

Do teachers not highly qualified in the content area(s) they are instructing need to be placed on plans to be highly qualified and the district continue to monitor those plans?

Teachers who are not highly qualified in one or more core content area(s) they are instructing should continue to develop an Individual Teacher Plan for achieving highly qualified status. This plan is kept on file in the district office and progress checks should continue to monitor the progress on the plan.

Will districts still be required to report data on status of highly qualified teachers? If so, how?

Yes. Reporting of highly qualified teachers in the district and schools will continue to be submitted through the Fall Certified Staff Accounting data collection and updated in the Spring data collection.

Will districts still be required to have 100% of their teachers highly qualified in the core content area in which they provide instruction? If they are not 100%, what will be the consequence?

Districts are still required to have 100% of their teachers highly qualified in all core content area(s) that they provide instructions. This requirement will still be part of the federal monitoring process and any corrective action will be taken through this process, at this time.

Will districts still be required to monitor the equitable distribution of teachers at each site?

Yes. This requirement has not changed; districts are still required “to ensure that poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers” (ESEA section 1111(b)(8)(C)).

What are the restrictions on Title I funds?

There is no longer a restriction on using Title I funds to hire paraprofessionals. There is no requirement to set aside five percent of Title I, Part A funds if the district is less than 100 percent Highly Qualified. The district must still ensure that all teachers are highly qualified in all schools not just Title I schools.

Has Parent Notification changed on teacher qualifications and non-highly qualified teachers?

No. The parent notification requirements about teacher qualifications and non-highly qualified teachers in Title I schools remain the same.

Will this reporting for Highly Qualified be a part of the school report cards for the new ASPI?

The percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers remains on district and school report cards. EED will be developing a new Report Card Template for districts and schools to use. As of February 8, 2013, there is revised non-regulatory guidance on State and Local Report Cards from USED.

Will highly qualified be a consideration in the new teacher evaluation system?

The ESEA flexibility waiver is intended to allow the State and Districts to focus on developing and implementing more meaningful evaluation and support systems.