

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Secretary will use the following criteria to select the LEAs with which he will enter into Local-Flex agreements:

(a) Identification of the Need for the Local-Flex Agreement. (25 points) The Secretary considers the LEA's description and analysis of its need for a Local-Flex agreement.

In determining the quality of the description and analysis, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the LEA's baseline achievement data and data on other academic indicators are objective, valid, and reliable, and provide disaggregated results.

(ii) The extent to which the proposal identifies achievement gaps among different groups of students.

(iii) The extent to which the Local-Flex agreement will focus on serving or otherwise addressing the needs of students most at risk of educational failure.

(iv) The extent to which the additional flexibility provided under the Local-Flex agreement would enable the LEA to meet more effectively the State's definition of adequate yearly progress and specific, measurable goals for improving student achievement and narrowing achievement gaps.

(b) Quality of the Educational Goals. (25 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the goals that the LEA sets in its proposed Local-Flex agreement.

In determining the quality of the LEA's goals, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the goals in the proposed Local-Flex agreement are clearly specified and measurable.

(ii) The significance of the improvement in student achievement and in narrowing achievement gaps proposed in the agreement.

(iii) The extent to which the goals relate to the needs identified in the LEA's baseline achievement data and data on other academic indicators.

(iv) The extent to which the goals support the intent and purposes of the Local-Flex program.

(c) Quality of the Local-Flex Plan. (35 points) The Secretary considers the quality of the LEA's Local-Flex plan.

In determining the quality of the Local-Flex plan, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the LEA will use funds consolidated under the Local-Flex agreement to address the needs identified in the baseline achievement data in order to assist the LEA in achieving its educational goals.

(ii) The extent to which the LEA's Local-Flex plan constitutes a coherent, sustained approach for reaching the LEA's goals, and to which the timelines for implementing strategies in the plan are reasonable.

(iii) The extent to which the LEA will use achievement data and data on other academic indicators to manage the proposed activities and to monitor progress toward reaching its goals on an ongoing basis.

(iv) The extent to which the LEA demonstrates that it will meet the general purposes of the programs that would be consolidated under its Local-Flex agreement;

(v) The extent to which the LEA included parents, especially parents of children most at risk of educational failure, in the development of the Local-Flex proposal.

(d) Adequacy of the Resources. (15 points) The Secretary considers the adequacy of the resources for the proposed Local-Flex agreement.

In considering the adequacy of the resources, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the funds that the LEA proposes to consolidate under the Local-Flex agreement are adequate to support the strategies in its Local-Flex plan.

(ii) The extent to which the funds that the LEA proposes to consolidate under the Local-Flex agreement will be integrated with other resources to meet the goals of the proposed agreement.

(iii) The extent to which costs that the LEA will incur under the Local-Flex agreement are reasonable in relationship to the goals that will be achieved under the agreement.