

**NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS:  
EQUITY FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER  
PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES**

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) ([20 U.S.C. 1228a](#)) applies to applicants for grant awards under this program.

**ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW GRANT AWARDS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.**

Please respond to the following requests for information:

1. Describe how your entity's existing mission, policies, or commitments ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the proposed project or activity.

The mission statement of the Office of Special Populations and Monitoring at the Texas Education Agency is that together, we are committed to high expectations and strong systems that achieve equitable outcomes for students in special populations. Additionally, the philosophy of the entire Agency is that every child will be prepared for success in college, a career, or the military. The activities the Agency engages in as a result of IDEA-B funding are driven by both of the above priorities, which include initiatives to ensure equitable access and participation by all students.

All projects and activities implemented with state funds (not including federal funds) shall be designed to ensure equitable access and participation by all students, educators, or other beneficiaries?

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Students with disabilities, when compared to students without disabilities, lag behind their peers in state assessment performance and graduation rates, and have a higher rate of dropping out of school.

Ensuring access to, and participation in, all school activities and quality tier one instruction is critical

for the success of students with disabilities. Goals and objectives are developed, and ongoing progress monitoring is planned and implemented.

Specifically, Rider 17 of the General Appropriations Act of the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature requires the Texas Education Agency to set aside 10.5% of IDEA B funds allocated for state-level activities for the express purpose of providing students with disabilities equitable access to the general curriculum. The Agency grants these funds to the 20 regional Education Service Centers to support implementation of strong programs promoting well implemented inclusion programs, multi-tiered systems of support, and other initiatives designed to provide all students with disabilities with equitable access to the general curriculum.

**4.** What is your timeline, including targeted milestones, for addressing these identified barriers?

The Office of Special Programs and Monitoring engages in ongoing progress monitoring of expected