

New 2020-21 Comparability Action Plan

Plan Narrative, Implementation Steps, Timeline



Comparability Overview:

Section 1118(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires that local educational agencies (LEAs) provide state- and locally-funded services in Title I, Part A schools that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services provided in schools that are not Title I, Part A. This comparability requirement ensures that Federal Title I, Part A funds are not spent on resources that non-Title I, Part A schools obtain with state and local funds. Statute requires that LEAs provide services that meet comparability requirements each year and maintain documentation to demonstrate compliance biennially. However, statute also stipulates that LEAs must **annually** provide services in Title I schools that are, in fact, comparable to those in non-Title I schools.

Therefore, LEAs must annually conduct local analyses to ensure comparable services are being provided. In order to reduce the burden on LEAs during the 2020-21 reporting year, Cycle A LEAs may provide evidence of comparability using local analyses from the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school years. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has selected pupil-teacher ratios as the method LEAs will use to determine comparability. The LEA will use the same method to compare all schools. Charter schools must be included with traditional public schools to determine comparability. LEAs may select the enrollment size option to group schools based on smaller and larger enrollment sizes.

Comparability Action Plan Purpose:

LEAs that are unable to demonstrate comparability for the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school years using the pupil-teacher ratio or an FDOE approved alternative method must complete the **Comparability Action Plan** that describes the LEA's plan to resolve non-comparable circumstances within the 2020-21 school year. This plan should include action steps and a timeline for implementation, as well as the party responsible for implementation.

Questions and Answers

Who should submit a plan?

LEAs that are unable to demonstrate comparability for all eligible schools through local analyses using the pupil-teacher ratio or an FDOE approved alternative method from the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year.

What is required?

A written action plan to be carried out in the 2020-21 school year to come into compliance by December 1st of the 2021-22 school year.

What components should be included in the plan?

Specific action steps designed to resolve non-comparable conditions, timeline and benchmarks for implementation, and the party responsible.

How will the plan be collected?

The Cycle A LEAs submit the completed form through Monitoring/Comparability ShareFile.

When is the plan due?

By the close of the 2020-21 reporting cycle due date.

Comparability Action Plan

LEA Name: _____

Purpose

The purpose of this form is to collect the required information necessary for the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to verify that each local education agency (LEA) is in compliance with the demonstration requirements regarding Title I, Part A (TIPA) Comparability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). To ensure the LEA is on-track to meet these requirements, each LEA with non-comparable schools at the close of the reporting cycle must submit the following:

- A list of non-comparable schools and a brief description of the context contributing to non-comparability; and
- A narrative description of the LEA's action plan and timeline for implementation to meet comparability, including responsible party.

Note: The LEA is required to calculate Title I, Part A comparability annually and submit demonstration of comparability to FDOE biennially.

Instructions

Complete the tables below to describe the steps that will be taken to resolve the non-comparable circumstances. A change in the allocation of staff or instructional resources may be necessary to meet Title I, Part A Comparability requirements.

A copy of this form must be signed and dated by the designated comparability certifying official. This Comparability Action Plan form must be upload to the FDOE TIPA ShareFile by the close of the Cycle A reporting period, January 28, 2021. FDOE TIPA will review the information provided to ensure the LEA is on-track in meeting compliance with the ESSA requirements.

I. Table of Non-Comparable Schools

Complete the table for Title I schools that are unable to demonstrate comparability. Include the School Number, School Name, the Grade Span School Type (Elementary, Middle, High, Combination), and a brief explanation of the context contributing to the non-comparability status.

School Number	School Name	Grade Span School Type	Brief Explanation of Context Contributing to Non-Comparability

II. Action Plan: Narrative and Action Steps

Describe how the LEA will resolve non-comparable conditions. This narrative description should summarize the key strategies that inform the action steps, timeline, and include responsible parties.

III. Signature

By signing below, the LEA affirms that the above plan will be carried out in the 2020-21 school year to come into compliance by December 1st of the 2021-22 school year and that the Superintendent has been apprised of this plan.

LEA Name

Printed Name of Certifying Official*

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

* The certifying official should be an LEA administrator whose salary is not paid wholly, or in part, by Title I.