

## Customer Service Q&A

<b>Question</b>	<b>Will the review process consist of having members from other LEAs read and compose clarifying questions?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	The MSDE is assembling its review teams and will evaluate whether or not LEA staff will have a component in this year's review. The Department will communicate its decision well in advance of the plan deadlines. MSDE is considering burden and lift on LEA staff given the many, high-priority, competing work streams LEA teams are addressing right now.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Related to board approval. Last year's ESSA instructions required their LEA board to approve, and they wanted to know if that is the same this year as well?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	Board requirements were previously associated with Master Plan submission in 5-401 of the Education Article. Those components were appeals with the Blueprint and the establishment of Blueprint implementation plans. Consequently, the current consolidated application does not require board approval. That being said, to the extent that you may want to discuss or review any related programmatic or fiscal content in federal title applications or the related programs in the consolidated application, we certainly support that transparency.

<b>Question</b>	<b>For the focus area, goals, and outcomes, to be clear about expectations. Should LEAs include a narrative or is there another format? Should we discuss what success looks like?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	Yes to both questions

<b>Question</b>	<b>Question about evidence of impact. It is new and seems nebulous, how should we address this? Is there a time limit that we should take into account or page/character count for the question?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	Looking Evidence of impact should be described in one of two ways. For proposed activities that are recurring (activities that existed in the previous year or already exist in the LEA), LEAs should provide the evidence of impact on student outcomes of that particular program to justify continued investment in the program. For proposed activities that are new, applicants should provide evidence and citation the demonstrates how proposed activities are likely to successfully lead to the outcomes identified in the plan.

<b>Question</b>	<b>What is the difference between a goal and a measurable outcome? Previously measures were stated as part of the goal.</b>
<b>Answer</b>	These are tightly coupled; goal is a broader idea you aim to achieve while outcome is more timebound. In other words, goals are part of an umbrella spectrum, while outcomes are specific and precise.

<b>Question</b>	<b>When will Title VII, Part B be available?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	MSDE is working quickly to distribute remaining Title parts and will release those as soon as they are ready.

<b>Question</b>	<b>How should we link Title IV into the application as it does not necessarily pertain to mathematics?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	Not every focus area needs to apply to every Title program but be specific to which ones focus areas you are addressing.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Related to equitable services, the deadline is October 14th. Is it possible to extend that deadline?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	The deadline is extended to November 1 <sup>st</sup> .

<b>Question</b>	<b>Should gender be tracked as a student group?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	Yes, this facilitates providing data to the Maryland State Board of Education as plans for improvements are developed.

<b>Question</b>	<b>The only data source available for ELA and Math at the state level for the completion of the FY2023 plan is the early fall data from Fall 2021 and Fall 2022. Should we use that data or use earlier sources, such as 2019 PARCC?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	The LEAs should be using all available data to help inform setting goals based on the need for improvement. This can include integrating data from 2019.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Should LEAs use local data for the goals and outcomes on focus areas?</b>
<b>Answer</b>	MSDE asks for each LEA to identify two to three focus areas. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the change in assessments, standard setting, etc., the LEA should be using data that will identify those two to three focus areas for improvement, which can include local data.