



U.S. Department of Education's Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE)



ONPE's mission is to foster maximum participation of nonpublic school students and teachers in federal education programs and initiatives. Since the initial passage of the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#) in 1965, private school students and teachers have been eligible to participate in certain federal education programs. ONPE's activities reflect this mission and direction by:

- Representing the U.S. Department of Education to the nonpublic school community;
- Offering advice and guidance within the Department on all matters affecting nonpublic education;
- Communicating with national, state and local education agencies and associations on nonpublic education topics;
- Communicating the interests and concerns of the nonpublic school community to the Department;
- Providing parents with information regarding education options for their children; and
- Providing technical assistance, workshops and publications.

ONPE collaborates with the Department's Offices of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Support, Safe and Healthy Students, and the General Counsel in developing guidance, providing technical assistance and addressing issues related to the equitable participation of private school students and teachers under the ESEA and other federal education programs.

Resources

Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE)

<https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/non-public-education/>

[ONPE General Listserv](#)- The ONPE listserv is a free service offered by ONPE. Subscribers interested in K-12 nonpublic school issues, including the provisions of ESEA and IDEA, will receive periodic information relevant to non-public education across the country.

[Ombudsman Corner](#)- The Ombudsman Corner provides helpful information and resources to assist State ombudsmen in fulfilling their role to monitor and enforce the equitable services requirements of the ESEA.*

[Ombudsman Update](#)- Quarterly newsletter for ombudsmen that includes guidance, resources and promising practices.
[October 2017 Ombudsman Update](#)

Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services Requirements under the ESEA, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act , Non-Regulatory Guidance (November 2016) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaguidance160477.pdf>

*To help ensure equitable services and other benefits for eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, and families, an SEA must designate an ombudsman to monitor and enforce ESEA equitable services requirements under both Title I and Title VIII. (ESEA sections 1117(a)(3)(B) and 8501(a)(3)(B).)