Division of Federal Fiscal Compliance and Reporting

Title I, Part A – Comparability of Services

Training Module
Grade Span Groupings

This is the Training Module on Grade Span Groupings

Grade Span Groupings

- Should match the basic organization of schools in the LEA
  - Elementary schools
  - Middle schools
  - High schools
- An overlap in grades - campuses must be grouped together
- No overlap in grades - campuses may be considered separately

Grade Span Groupings must be determined prior to completing the Comparability Computation Form. LEAs should use the current grade span and status of the campuses. TEA will validate the information by comparing the submitted data with the data contained within the NCLB Consolidated Federal Grant Application – Schedule SC5000 – Campus Selection. If Compliance Unit discovers data that does not agree, the unit will be contacting the LEA for clarification. If it is determined that the data within the SC5000 is incorrect, the LEA will be required to amend the grant application to reflect the current grade span and status of the campuses before the LEA's submitted documentation is accepted.

When determining how to group the campuses into grade span groupings

The grade span groupings should match the basic organization of schools in the LEA.

If the LEA's organization includes elementary, middle, and senior high schools, the LEA would have three grade span groupings – Elementary, Middle, and High. This is the standard organization in Texas.

If there is any overlap in grades, the campuses must be grouped together.

If there is no overlap in grades, the campuses may be considered separately.

Grade Span Groupings

- Example – LEA Elementary Schools/Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
K–3	Elementary
PK–5	Elementary
4–5	Elementary

- Group together as Elementary for comparability testing

Examples – Elementary Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the Elementary school campuses: K-3, PK-5, and 4-5. All three campuses must be grouped together as “Elementary” due to the overlap in grades.

Grade Span Groupings

- Example – LEA Elementary Schools/No Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
PK–1	Elementary
2–3	Elementary
4–5	Elementary

- No overlap in the grouping; thus, each campus is considered separate
- In this scenario, no comparability testing is required

Examples – Elementary Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the Elementary school campuses: PK-1, 2-3, and 4-5. Due to no overlap in grades, the campuses may be considered separately; therefore, the campuses may be excluded from the comparability requirement.

Grade Span Groupings

- Example – LEA Middle Schools/Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
5–7	Middle
6–8	Middle
7–8	Middle
6th Grade	Middle

- Group together as Middle Schools for comparability testing

Examples – Middle Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the Middle school campuses: 5-7; 6-8; 7-8, and dedicated 6th grade campus. All four campuses must be grouped together as "Middle" due to the overlap in grades

Grade Span Groupings

- Example – LEA Middle Schools/No Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
6th Grade	Middle School
7–8	Middle School

- No overlap in the grouping; thus, each campus is considered separate
- In this scenario, no comparability testing is required

Examples – Middle Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the Middle School Campuses: dedicated 6th grade campus, and 7-8. Due to no overlap in grades, the campuses may be considered separately; therefore, the campuses may be excluded from the comparability requirement.

Grade Span Groupings

- Examples – LEA High Schools/Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
9th Grade	High School
9–12	High School
10–12	High School

- Group together as High Schools for comparability testing

Examples – High Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the High school campuses: dedicated 9th grade campus, 9-12, and 10-12. All three campuses must be grouped together as "High" due to the overlap in grade spans.

Grade Span Groupings

- Example – LEA High Schools/No Overlap

Grade Span	Grade Span Grouping
9th Grade	High School
10–12	High School

- No overlap in the grouping; thus, campus is considered separate
- In this scenario, no comparability testing is required

Examples – High Schools

LEA has the following grade spans at the High school campuses: dedicated 9th grade campus, and 10-12 campus. Due to no overlap in grades, the campuses may be considered separately; therefore, the campuses may be excluded from the comparability requirement.

Grade Span Groupings

- Overlapping Grade Span Groupings
  - Campuses which overlap more than one grouping

Grade Span	Possible Grade Span Grouping	As Determined by LEA
05-12	Elem, Middle, High	High
05-06	Elem, Middle	Elem

  - Place in the grouping which most accurately represents the makeup of the campus

USDE states for comparability purposes, the LEAs should match the basic organization of their schools in determining their groupings: 1) Elementary schools 2) Middle schools 3) High schools

AND

USDE also states that any overlap in grades must be grouped together.

Well, what about an LEA that has the basic structure of say, Elementary, Middle, High – but then has an outliyer campus which covers say 05-12 grade?

When an LEA has a campus which overlaps two or more grade span groupings, the LEA should place the campus within the grade span grouping which most accurately represents the student body of that campus.

For example, if the 05-12 campus has a total enrollment of 1000 students, 800 are in 9-12; 150 are in 6-8, and only 50 are in grade 5, the campus should be placed within the HS grouping for testing.

If the LEA placed it in the elementary grade span grouping, it would not be an accurate representation of the campus.

If it is determined that populations are represented equally, then the LEA has the discretion as to which grouping to include the campus.

Copyright Notice

- Copyright © 2012 Notice The materials are copyrighted © and trademarked ™ as the property of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and may not be reproduced without the express written permission of TEA, except under the following conditions:
- 1) Texas public school districts, charter schools, and Education Service Centers may reproduce and use copies of the Materials and Related Materials for the districts' and schools' educational use without obtaining permission from TEA.
- 2) Residents of the state of Texas may reproduce and use copies of the Materials and Related Materials for individual personal use only without obtaining written permission of TEA.
- 3) Any portion reproduced must be reproduced in its entirety and remain unedited, unaltered and unchanged in any way.
- 4) No monetary charge can be made for the reproduced materials or any document containing them; however, a reasonable charge to cover only the cost of reproduction and distribution may be charged.
- Private entities or persons located in Texas that are not Texas public school districts, Texas Education Service Centers, or Texas charter schools or any entity, whether public or private, educational or noneducational, located outside the state of Texas MUST obtain written approval from TEA and will be required to enter into a license agreement that may involve the payment of a licensing fee or a royalty.
- For information contact: Office of Copyrights, Trademarks, License Agreements, and Royalties, Texas Education Agency, 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701-1494; phone 512-463-9270 or 512-936-6060; email: copyrights@tea.state.tx.us

Copyright © 2012 Texas Education Agency. All rights reserved.

This concludes the training module