



## State-Tribal Relations Committee

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### 65th Montana Legislature

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TO: State-Tribal Relations Committee  
FROM: Pad McCracken, LSD Research Analyst  
RE: LC ELMS revisions and STRC questions from July 6 conference call  
DATE: July 11, 2018

During its July 6 conference call meeting the State-Tribal Relations Committee requested changes to LC ELMS, a bill draft creating a state grant program to support school district programs for English Learners (ELs) and had a couple related questions. This memo explains the changes to LC ELMS and addresses the committee questions.

### **Bill draft**

**LC ELMS** (English Learner Miscellaneous Fund) creates a new state funding program providing districts with up to a 1:1 match of any federal Title III subgrant the district receives. The exact amount of the match below the 1:1 cap would be dependent on the appropriation. The money received by districts would be deposited in the district's miscellaneous programs fund, similar to the way we provide funding for programs serving gifted and talented students currently, except that the gifted and talented grant program is competitive and requires districts to apply, whereas this program would automatically provide funding to a district that receives a federal Title III subgrant.

The two changes requested by the committee in July are:

1. A local match requirement of the state money was added in New Section (1)(3) at the top of page two of the draft. This language is nearly identical to the language requiring a match of state money supporting gifted and talented programs in [20-7-903\(3\), MCA](#).
2. A coordination section (4) was added so that the appropriation section (2) of the act would be voided if an appropriation for the grant program was added to HB 2. This is a standard addition to "dog and cat" bills that contain an appropriation, smoothing the way for general fund appropriations to be consolidated in HB 2.

## Question/request

1. Do the existing federal Title III subgrants to school districts (and consortia) require a local match?

No.

2. Chairwoman Stewart-Peregoy requested that links to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law and the Montana ESSA plan be provided with instructions on how to access information related to Title III.

- [ESSA \(Public Law 114-95, Dec. 10, 2015\)](#) (see pages 153-164)
- [ESSA Title III Guidance – English Learners](#) (US Dept of Ed; September 23, 2016)
- [Montana Consolidated State Plan under ESSA](#) (see pages 71-74)