

GUIDANCE ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

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What are the qualifications to participate in a 21st CCLC program?

Federal law requires that participation in any federally funded program, including 21st CCLC, must be open to all qualifying individuals. According to the goals and expectations of New Hampshire's 21st CCLC program, there is a focus on serving students who:

- (1) attend, or would be eligible to attend, high poverty schools with a minimum of 40% free and reduced lunch rates; **and/or**
- (2) are low-performing, as defined by state and local assessments, or
- (3) otherwise classified "at risk" due to truancy, family instability, transience, substance abuse, etc. as identified in the awarded grant proposal.

Though 21st CCLC programs are open to all qualifying students, there may be enrollment caps due to funding levels and overall capacity. Program enrollment for 21st CCLC programs may operate on a variety of enrollment systems, through an established and transparent process, identifies youth with the most need (based on the criteria above) and prioritizes their registration and admittance to the program. Once a program has reached its capacity, students may be placed on a waiting list and may enroll when the program has an opening.

What relationship does the 21st CCLC program have with other Federal programs?

The 21st CCLC serves as a supplementary program that can enhance state or local reform efforts to improve student academic achievement and to support their overall development. In particular, 21st CCLC funds create and expand afterschool programs that offer extended learning opportunities for children and their families. Once these programs have been established with 21st CCLC funds, other federal, state, and/or local funds can also be used to provide activities and services in these centers.

Can 21st CCLC programs serve students who are also supported by other Federal programs?

Yes. Programs are encouraged to support low-performing students who are also receiving services from other federal programs. For example, students receiving Title I services, students with disabilities, and English language learners are among the student populations that can also benefit from 21st CCLC programs and services. For any student who is receiving services through another federal program, *as long as that student meets the 21st CCLC program's qualifications and the program has the capacity to serve the student, the student must be allowed to participate in the 21st CCLC program.*

Title I

Title I funding can, but is not required to, be used to provide supplemental programming services to support the participation of Title I identified students in 21st CCLC programs. These program services must be supplemental and not supplant any services currently being offered to Title I students.

Title III/ELL

Students who are receiving ELL services are learning English and academic content simultaneously and often perform lower on state and local assessments. As such, 21st CCLC programs are encouraged to serve ELL students in order to support their language and academic needs, thus helping them progress toward grade level proficiency standards. Schools should consider including participation in the 21st CCLC program as part of a student's Individual Language Acquisition Plan (ILAP), which outlines a personalized action plan for language development. In the event that an ILAP doesn't include the 21st CCLC program, discretionary 21st CCLC funds can be used to support the student's participation in the program.

Homeless

Students who have been identified as homeless under the McKinney Vento Act are at risk and often perform below their peers on state and local assessments and benefit greatly from the stability and services offered by many 21st CCLC programs. In cases where it is determined that afterschool programming is a need for a homeless student and funds are available from either McKinney Vento or Title I Part A reservation of funds for homeless students, space would be made available to support participation in such a program in the absences of 21st CCLC, then either the McKinney Vento program or Title I Part A may elect to cover the program cost (if any, following the normal registration and scholarship/sliding rate processes for the program) for the identified youth.

Migrant

Students who are receiving services through the Migrant education are often at risk and perform lower on state and local assessments. Programs serving communities with migrant populations should consider flexible services to meet the needs of this specialized population, including socialization opportunities, academic resources, family engagement, and supports.

What if a student is protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act?

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act specifically states: "No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." No student, who wishes to participate in the 21st CCLC program, can be excluded from receiving services solely by reason of her or his handicap. Any student who otherwise meets the program qualifications, could succeed at the program with or without modifications, and who the program has capacity to serve, must be allowed to participate in the program. It is advised that 21st CCLC programs

consult local district personnel to determine if a student has a 504 plan, and if so, the details regarding that plan. 21st CCLC programs must ensure that reasonable accommodations are in place to support the student's participation in the program.

How about a student who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Students with disabilities receiving special education and related services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), who also meet the program qualifications, may participate in a 21st CCLC program. Though it is unusual for an IEP to include programming during non-school hours, if the IEP Team determines that participation in the 21st CCLC program is necessary in order for the student to receive a free, appropriate public education, then that student's IEP must address the extended school day services to be provided. 21st CCLC program staff are advised to collaborate with local IEP Teams to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided to the student. In the event that an IEP does not include the 21st CCLC program, discretionary 21st CCLC funds can be used to support the student's participation in the program.

What if a student is home schooled?

Homeschooled youth living in the catchment area of an eligible, funded 21st CCLC school who would be eligible to attend said school if they were not being homeschooled are subject to the same eligibility and priority criteria for 21st CCLC participation as students attending the host school.