



UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents and Business Administrators

FROM: Scott Jones *Scott Jones*
Deputy Superintendent of Operations

SUBJECT: Necessarily Existent Small Schools Program Application Criteria FY2020

DATE: April 12, 2019

To receive Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS) funding for fiscal year 2020, school districts are **required** to complete an application according to 53F-2-304 and Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Rule 277-445 and submit it by May 17, 2019.

For individual district schools to qualify as NESS, the school must meet the minimum requirements below:

- 1) **Average Daily Membership (ADM)** - A district school may be classified as necessarily existent if the school's ADM does not exceed:
 - a. Elementary school – 160 ADM;
 - b. 1-2-year secondary school – 300 ADM;
 - c. 3-year secondary school – 450 ADM;
 - d. 4-year secondary school – 500 ADM; or
 - e. 6-year secondary school – 600 ADM.

Each applicant school must meet the small size requirement for a school of its type [[R277-445-3\(1\)](#)], but data for that purpose are independently verified by USBE. The school district does not need to provide any documentation to substantiate this requirement.

- 2) **Travel requirement (Option A or B) as defined below:**
 - a. **One-Way Bus Travel** – One-way bus travel over USBE approved bus routes for any student from the assigned school to the nearest school within the district of the same type shall require:
 - i. Students in kindergarten – sixth grade to travel more than 45 minutes;
or

ADA Compliant 2-04-2020

- ii. Students in grades seven – twelve to travel more than one hour and 15 minutes.

This is measured from the current NESS school to the closest available school within the school district that has student capacity.

- b. **Maximum Consolidation** – Maximum consolidation means that the next closest school that serves similar grades has reached maximum student capacity; therefore, the NESS school cannot be consolidated further.

If an individual district school meets the above requirements of NESS eligibility, please submit documentation to substantiate the travel requirement above to Kirin McInnis at kirin.mcinnis@schools.utah.gov by May 17, 2019.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Jaime Barrett at Jaime.barrett@schools.utah.gov or (801) 538-7667 or Kirin McInnis at kirin.mcinnis@schools.utah.gov or (801) 538-7674.

Attachment



Utah State Board of Education

Necessarily Existent Small Schools Program Application – FY2020

Due: Friday, May 17, 2019

APPLICATION

For each individual district school applying for NESS funding, please complete the following:

- 1) Official three-digit school number assigned to the school by the USBE
- 2) Name of the school
- 3) Grades served by the school and NESS school type (elementary, 1-2-year secondary, 3-year secondary, 4-year secondary, or 6-year secondary)
- 4) The LEA must provide evidence substantiating eligibility for either the Travel Requirement in Option A or the Maximum Consolidation requirement in Option B:

Option A Travel Requirement: If MapQuest <www.mapquest.com> or Google Maps <maps.google.com> indicates that the time it would take to drive a car from the applying school to the nearest school within the district of the same type exceeds the statutorily established minimum travel time, the school is considered to have met the requirement.

Option B Operational Definition of “Maximum Consolidation:” Provide narrative and documentation that the next closest school that serves similar grades has reached maximum student capacity; therefore, the NESS school cannot be consolidated further.

APPROVAL PROCESS

A USBE committee will meet to approve or reject the applications. School districts may be invited to provide additional information, if necessary, before a final decision is reached. Schools eligible for NESS funding will be announced by June 3, 2019.