

## (C3) Statutorily-Defined Professional Development

As a pass-through entity for Federal education funds, the Maine Department of Education (Maine DOE) has prepared this guidance document to assist Federal program sub-recipients in adhering to the statutory requirements for the ESEA programs.

The information provided in this document serves as general guidance being provided by the Maine DOE. Subrecipients under ESEA should refer to the full text of the regulations which govern the use of these federal funds, which can be found at under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and within the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).

Subrecipients of Federal funds are solely responsible for meeting all applicable Federal regulations.

### Definitions:

**Evidence based:** According to Sec. 8101 (21) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act *evidence-based* is defined as “an activity, strategy, or intervention that -

- (i) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on—
  - (I) strong evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
  - (II) moderate evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
  - (III) promising evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or (ii)(I) demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and
- (ii) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

**Professional Development:** According to Sec. 8101 (42)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, *professional development* is defined as activities that “are sustained (not stand-alone, 1-day, or short term workshops), intensive, collaborative, job-embedded, data-driven, and classroom-focused.”

**Statutory Requirements:**

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Sec. 2103(b)(3)

**State Guidance:**

In accordance with Sec. 2103(b)(3) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the SAU may show evidence of funding activities that meet the definition of *professional development* listed above through professional development plans, calendars, and schedules for activities carried out under ESEA. If these do not make clear the district has met the definition, the district may also submit a written description of the professional development activities carried out under ESEA that address statutory requirements.

Additionally, the SAU may show evidence of funding activities that meet the definition of *evidence-based* by providing agendas, notes, and materials from at least one of the professional development activities carried out under ESEA. If these do not make clear the district has met the definition, the district may also submit a written description of the evidence base used to determine the effectiveness of the professional development for at least one of the activities.

If ESEA funds or School Improvement Funds were not used to carry out professional development activities, "N/A" may be chosen for this item.

**Relevant Documentation:**

- Written description of the professional development activities carried out under ESEA and School Improvement that address statutory requirements.
- Professional development plans, calendars, and schedules for activities carried out under ESEA and School Improvement that provide evidence of meeting statutory requirements.
- Agendas, notes, and materials from at least one of the professional development activities carried out under ESEA and School Improvement.
- Description of the evidence base used to determine the effectiveness of the professional development for at least one of the activities.

**Technical Assistance:**

Please feel free to contact your [ESEA Regional Program Manager](#) at the Maine DOE if you have any questions relative to the contents of this document or the requirements for leveraging these Federal funds.