



ISLAMIC SCHOOLS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA

ISNA EDUCATION CONFERENCE
April 18-20, 2003

Federal Education Improvement Programs and Services Available to Private Schools Under the No Child Left Behind Legislation Judi Amri, Islamic Schools' League of America

SESSION AGENDA

Overview	Judi Amri Islamic Schools' League of America
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Programs and Services Associated with No Child Left Behind▪ Role of the Office of Non-Public Education	
Introduction of Panelists	
<u>Panel Discussion:</u> Profiles Of Three Islamic Schools Receiving Benefits From Title Funds	Sr. Magda Saleh, Principal, Florida Islamic Academy, Tampa, Florida
(The principals of these schools will discuss the Title programs under which they receive services, the nature of those services, the process by which they applied for those benefits, and how it has helped their school.)	Sr. Zahra Williams, Principal, Toledo Islamic Academy, Toledo, Ohio
	Sr. Roxanne El-Filali, Principal, Miftaahul Uloom School, Union City, NJ
Questions & Answers	

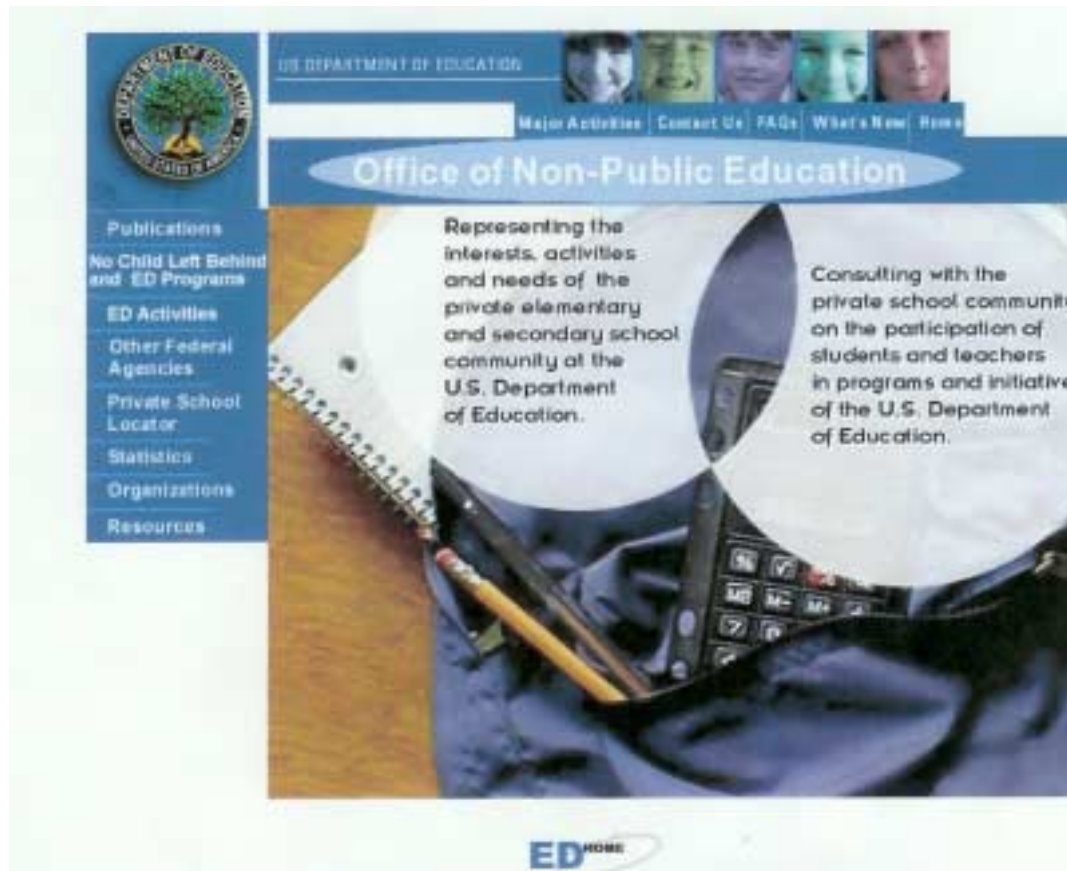
The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Non-Public Education is a group within the Department of Education that all private schools, including private religious schools, should view as their ally. In summary, their responsibility is to be an advocate for private schools by:

- Working to inform private schools about federal education programs for which private schools (religious or secular) are eligible and encouraging their participation in the programs

- Performing the role of liaison between private schools and the Secretary of Education by recommending policies that would increase availability of services to private schools, and
- Ensuring that the Department of Education's programs and procedures, which apply to delivery of services to private schools, are provided as required by the law.

The Office of Non-Public Education provides a number of outreach services. The services that you will find the most helpful are:

- Their web site (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/NonPublic/index.html>), which deciphers the programs that serve private school teachers and students associated with the No Child Left Behind Act, and
- Availability of staff from the Office of Non-Public Education to make presentations at conferences.



The Law

Participation of private schools (secular or religious) in programs resulting from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act is assured by the Uniform Provisions under Title IX of the ESEA. **It is the law!**

"Under the Uniform Provisions, local education agencies (LEAs) or other entities receiving federal financial assistance are required to provide services to eligible private school children, teachers and other personnel consistent with the number of eligible children enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools in the LEA, or in the geographic area served by another entity receiving federal financial assistance. These services and other benefits must be comparable to the services and other benefits provided to public school children and teachers participating in the program and they must be provided in a timely manner.

To ensure equitable participation, the LEA or other entity receiving federal financial assistance must assess, address and evaluate the needs of private school students and teachers; spend an equal amount of funds per student to provide services; provide private school students and teachers with an opportunity to participate in activities equivalent to the opportunity provided public school students and teachers; and offer services that are secular, neutral and non-ideological." (Office of Non-Public Education)

Services that are provided to schools as a result of the *No Child Left Behind* legislation are founded on two important principals:

1) "*child benefit*": special types of assistance or services are provided primarily for students and their teachers and parents and only incidentally for the school they attended

2) "*public trusteeship*": aid is channeled through public authorities (state and local educational agencies) who receive the ESEA funds and act as trustees on behalf of all the eligible children in their community, regardless of the type of school they attended.

How Do These Services Save Your School Money?

Participation in these programs does not provide direct aid to the schools. Program funds are distributed to the state and/or local educational agencies (LEA -- public school districts) that provide eligible services. However it covers the cost of services to teachers and students in a number of ways (some of which are listed below) that the school would otherwise be required to pay for out of their own limited resources.

- Reading programs
- Professional development for teachers
- Assessments
- Implementation, integration, and support of the growth and use of technology to improve education
- Language instruction for students with limited English proficiency.



- Safe and drug-free schools
- Before and after school programs
- Support for gifted and talented children

Opportunities to participate in federal programs are provided through various acts of Congress that are described in the appendix to this paper (**see Appendix “Federal Education Services to Non-Public Schools: An Overview”**).

GETTING STARTED!

STEP 1:

Visit the Department of Education’s “Education Resource Organizations Directory.” They have a list of all the State Department’s of Education. The URL is:
http://bc0102.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list_by_territory.cfm.

STEP 2:

Click on your state to display a list of the educational resources within your state. Look for the link for the “*State Education Agency (State Department of Education)*.” This is the link to information about your state’s Department of Education (i.e., for Virginia it is <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/go/VDOE/>; for Illinois it is <http://www.isbe.net/>). Click on your State’s Department of Education’s web site link.

STEP 3:

Once at your State’s Department of Education web site search, for a link that will usually be labeled “No Child Left Behind,” “Federal Programs,” “NCLB,” “State and/or Federal Legislation,” or, if not otherwise obviously listed, find the “Search” field on the State website and enter “No Child Left Behind” or “NCLB.”

For the most part, on **most** state web sites, the information pertaining to services based on the No Child Left Behind legislation is fairly obvious. Once the information is located there should be some contact information (i.e., name, phone number, web site, email) of the person(s) responsible for these programs. **IF YOU DON’T FIND THIS INFORMATION ON THE WEB SITE CALL THE MAIN INFORMATION NUMBER FOR YOUR STATE’S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICES!**

STEP 4:

Call the appropriate office within your state (based your search of your State’s Department of Education web site as described in Step 3). In the initial phone contact, identify your school, the location of your school, and indicate that you would like to speak to the individual responsible for administration of the programs associated with the No Child Left Behind legislation.



Please remember that state and/or local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) that receive federal assistance for education programs associated with the No Child Left Behind legislation are **REQUIRED BY THE LAW** to provide services to eligible private school children, teachers and other personnel, **including religious schools!**

For additional information about the specific title programs, please refer to the **Appendix** titled “**Federal Education Services to Non-Public Schools: An Overview.**”

Please visit the Islamic Schools’ League of America’s web site (www.4islamicschools.org) for additional information on how to contact your State Education Agency (SEA).

