Section 427 of the United States Department of Education's General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requires each applicant for funds to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take in order to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally-assisted programs for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs.

GEPA allows applicants discretion in developing and describing the activities that are occurring to meet this requirement.  The statute highlights six types of barriers that may impede equitable access or participation: **gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age**. Based on local circumstances, LEAs should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent their students, teachers, etc. from such access or participation in the Federally-funded project or activity. The LEA may use information they have obtained through their comprehensive needs assessment process.  The description(s) provided need not be lengthy. Information to support as writing your statement may be found here: <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/gepa427.pdf>

**Statement to ensure equitable access to and participation in Federally assisted programs should be described in the box below:**

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| District Name and LEA # |  |

Please upload this document in Indistar in the ESSER folder by July 1, 2020.