

# Federal Programs Focus

MARCH 2026 EDITION

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

— B.B. King



## Important Dates

March 20, 2026

Deadline—Upload Intent to Participate Forms

June 23–26, 2026

MAFEPD Conference

Sheraton Refuge

Flowood, MS

## Using the CNA to Drive Effective Use of Federal Funds

As districts begin planning for the upcoming school year, the Consolidated Needs Assessment (CNA) serves as one of the most important tools for ensuring federal funds are used strategically and effectively. The CNA is more than a compliance requirement. It is a structured process that helps districts identify strengths, analyze challenges, and determine priorities for improvement.

A strong needs assessment begins with examining multiple sources of data, including student achievement results, benchmark assessments, attendance data, graduation rates, and program effectiveness. Looking closely at these data points allows district and school leaders to identify gaps in performance and determine which student groups may need additional support.

Equally important is the involvement of key stakeholders. Teachers, administrators, federal program leaders, and other staff members bring valuable perspectives to the discussion. Their input helps ensure that the needs identified truly reflect what is happening in classrooms and schools.

Once needs are identified, districts can align their federal program plans and budgets to address those priorities. Whether the focus is strengthening literacy instruction, expanding academic interventions, or supporting professional development, the CNA helps ensure that decisions are grounded in data and tied to measurable outcomes.

# **Strengthening the CNA: A Collaborative Review and Planning Session**

**Friday, April 10**

**8:30 to 3:30**

**The Capitol Club**

**125 S Congress Street**

**Jackson, MS**



- **Full-day, hands-on workshop for Federal Programs Directors**
- **Review and improve your district's Consolidated Needs Assessment (CNA)**
- **Collaborate with peers and share feedback on CNAs**
- **Analyze key data to identify priority needs and actionable strategies**
- **Align CNA findings with federal program planning and budgeting**
- **Move beyond compliance to make your CNA a tool for meaningful student impact**

**Scan the Code to Register**



## **PARTNERING for EXCELLENCE in EDUCATION**

The Excellence Group partners with school districts to deliver high-impact professional development and support in topics such as:

Instructional Coaching and Teacher Training

Federal Programs Support & Compliance

Accountability & Accreditation Guidance

Assessment Design & Data-Driven Instruction

Special Education

English Learner Program Development & Instructional Strategies

Student Tutorials

Leadership Retreats

**Contact us today to learn how we can customize a plan for your district!**

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the  
**excellence**  **group**  
LLC