

*Definition of Obligation* - An obligation is not necessarily a liability in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. When an obligation occurs (is made) depends on the type of property or services that the obligation is for:

<b>IF AN OBLIGATION IS FOR --</b>	<b>THE OBLIGATION IS MADE --</b>
(a) Acquisition of real or personal property.	On the date on which the State or subgrantee makes a binding written commitment to acquire the property.
(b) Personal services by an employee of the State or subgrantee.	When the services are performed.
(c) Personal services by a contractor who is not an employee of the State or subgrantee.	On the date on which the State or subgrantee makes a binding written commitment to obtain the services.
(d) Performance of work other than personal services.	On the date on which the State or subgrantee makes a binding written commitment to obtain the work.
(e) Public utility services.	When the State or subgrantee receives the services.
(f) Travel.	When the travel is taken.
(g) Rental of real or personal property.	When the State or subgrantee uses the property.
(h) A pre-agreement cost that was properly approved by the State under the applicable cost principles.	On the first day of the subgrant period.

The act of an SEA or other grantee awarding Federal funds to an LEA or other eligible entity within a State does not constitute a final obligation. An SEA or other grantee may not reallocate grant funds from one subrecipient to another after the period of availability (Section 421(b) of GEPA (20 USC 1225(b)); 34 CFR sections 76.704 through 76.707).

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