



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DEC 29 2014

MEMORANDUM TO TITLE I STATE DIRECTORS

Subject: Updated 2013 Census Data Used for Allocating Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (School Year 2015–2016) Title I, Part A Funds to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

Please find the attached 2013 population and poverty estimates for the local educational agencies (LEAs) in your State. The Census Bureau released these data on December 17, 2014. These data are also available at: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html>. I am providing these data for two reasons: (1) to enable your State and your LEAs to review these data and verify the accuracy of the school district boundary survey on which these data are based; and (2) to enable you to estimate your local educational agencies' (LEA) eligibility for, and allocation of, Title I, Part A funds. We will use these data to calculate fiscal year 2015 (school year (SY) 2015–2016) Title I, Part A allocations.

Review of estimated Census data: These estimates are based on a statistical model that incorporates information from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, administrative records taken from Federal income tax returns and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the most recent decennial Census, updates to population estimates that the Census Bureau may have completed since the last decennial census, data on Supplemental Security Income recipients, and economic data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Census Bureau has established a 90-day challenge period for reviewing these data and requests that corrections be submitted in cases where non-statistical errors can be documented. Such errors generally include errors that the Census Bureau may have made in (1) processing input data or running the estimation models/programs and (2) in preparing or processing information to define geographic boundaries (e.g., school district boundaries).

This challenge period ends on March 17, 2015. Based on the two factors outlined in the previous paragraph, if you believe that the Census estimates are incorrect, you or an LEA official may contact the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Branch at the Census Bureau for further information about how to challenge these estimates. To obtain information on the process you need to follow in order to challenge these data, please contact the Census SAIPE Branch at:

(301) 763-3193

E-mail: sehds.saipe@census.gov

When sending an e-mail, please include your name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and organization affiliation. For more information and guidance concerning the Census Bureau's challenge procedures, please see the following web site:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html>

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

For more information about the data sources and the methodology used to prepare these data, please see the frequently asked questions fact sheet prepared by the Census Bureau available at:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saife/about/index.html>

Note that the list of school districts used for the 2013 estimates is based on the SY 2013–2014 school district boundary survey conducted by the Census Bureau with the help of the district mapping coordinator in your State. Also, the school districts on this list include only “regular” school districts that have geographic boundaries. The list does not include, for example, special school districts, such as charter schools, that a State recognizes as LEAs, as well as regional vocational education districts. Rather than “correcting” for such LEA boundary data, States must adjust the SY 2015–2016 Title I, Part A LEA allocations that the U.S. Department of Education (ED) determines in order to accommodate new or special LEAs not included on the Census Bureau's SY 2013–2014 list.

Estimating LEAs’ eligibility and allocations: The data attached to this memorandum—the estimated number of related children ages 5-17 in families in poverty, the estimated total school-age population, and the estimated total resident population for each LEA—should also enable you to determine which LEAs on this list are potentially eligible for funds under the Basic, Concentration, Targeted, and Education Finance Incentive Grants allocation formulas.¹ The Census poverty data do not include the other children counted in the formula, such as foster and neglected children. This information, in combination with the 85, 90, and 95 percent hold-harmless guarantee provided in the Title I statute, will help you determine which LEAs are potentially eligible and help eligible LEAs begin planning for the coming school year because they would at least know that their minimum amount would be based on their prior year’s allocation (i.e., their SY 2014–2015 Title I, Part A allocation). We expect to release preliminary estimates of SY 2015–2016 LEA allocations based on the updated 2013 Census data in the early part of 2015.

The information also shows which LEAs in your State have a total resident population of less than 20,000. This will enable you to begin exploring whether your State wishes to use the flexibility provided in the Title I statute to redistribute LEA allocations determined by ED for those districts with a resident population under 20,000 using alternative poverty data. ED must approve any alternative poverty data that a State chooses to use for this purpose. If ED has already approved your State’s use of alternative poverty data, you do not need to resubmit your request.

If you have questions about SY 2015–2016 allocations, please contact Todd Stephenson of my staff. He can be reached at (202) 205-1645 (e-mail: todd.stephenson@ed.gov).

//SIGNED//
Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.
Director
Office of State Support

Attachments

cc: Chief State School Officers

¹ To be eligible for a Basic Grant, an LEA must have at least 10 children counted under the Title I formula **and** the number of formula children must be greater than two percent of the LEA’s ages 5 to 17 population. To be eligible for a Concentration Grant, an LEA must generally have more than 6,500 formula children **or** the number of formula children must exceed 15 percent of the LEA’s ages 5 to 17 population. To qualify for Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants, an LEA must have at least 10 formula children **and** that number must be at least 5 percent of its ages 5 to 17 population.