

# Title I, Part A

Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

**Title I, Part A is the largest federal program supporting elementary and secondary education. Allocations are based on student poverty rates in schools and districts to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.**

## Program Requirements

Title I, Part A provides resources to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education and attain high academic standards. Title I targets resources to districts and schools in greatest need.

Although the amount of Title I funds a school and district may receive is based on poverty rates, the children that benefit from the program(s) are not, necessarily, students in poverty. Rather, Title I programs work to address the needs of a school's lowest performing students and those students most at risk for not meeting state academic standards.

## Allocations

Title I, Part A includes four grant programs or components: A formula child, (counted for funding purposes), is between the ages of 5 and 17 and living below the federal poverty threshold.

### Basic Grant

- LEA must have at least 10 formula children and the number of formula children must exceed two percent of the LEA's total age five through 17 population.

### Concentration Grant

- LEA formula children must exceed 6,500 *or* 15 percent of the total age five through 17 population.

### Targeted Grant

- LEA formula children must be 10 *and* at least five percent of the LEA's total age five through 17 population.

### Education Finance Incentive Grant (EFIG)

- Funds distributed based on two factors:
  - Effort measures of a State's effort to provide financial support for education compared to its relative wealth, measured by its per capita income; and
  - Equity measure of the degree to which education expenditures vary among LEAs within a State.
- LEA formula children must be 10 *and* at least five percent of the LEA's age 5 through 17 population.

### Serving School Attendance Areas

- An LEA shall use funds under this part only to serve schools in which at least 35 percent of the students are from low-income families or the percentage of students from low-income families is at least as high as the percentage of low-income students served by the LEA as a whole.
- Rank Order: Schools with higher rates of poverty must be served with larger per-pupil allocations of Title I, Part A funds.
- All schools with poverty rates above 75 percent must be served before any schools with lower rates. Once all such schools are served, an LEA may rank remaining schools district wide, or within grade span groupings, for the purpose of allocating remaining funds.

## Tools and Resources

### Title IA

[www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/a](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/a)

### Title IA Regulations and Guidance

[www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/a\\_regsandguidance](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/a_regsandguidance)

### Resources and Technical Assistance

[www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/resourcesandtechnicalassistance](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/resourcesandtechnicalassistance)

### ESEA Program Toolkit

[www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/technical-assistance](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/technical-assistance)

### Targeted Assistance Programs

[www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/ata](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ti/ata)

### Schoolwide Programs

[www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/ti/asw](http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/ti/asw)



## Use of Funds

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The purpose of Title I, Part A funds is to enable schools to provide opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills required to meet the challenging State content and performance standards. The law provides many flexibilities and opportunities for LEAs and schools to meet the purpose of Part A. In schoolwide programs, Part A funds may be used for any activities that are part of the schoolwide plan. In targeted assistance schools, however, Part A funds may only be used to meet the needs of participating children.

## Fiscal Requirements

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### **Maintenance of Effort**

- An LEA may only receive Title I, Part A funds if it maintains educational expenditures from State and local funds from one year to the next. An LEA cannot reduce its own spending and replace those funds with Federal funds.

### **Comparability**

- An LEA may receive Title I, Part A funds only if State and local funds will be used in Title I schools that are at least comparable to those in non-Title I schools. An LEA may meet this requirement on a grade-span or school-by-school basis.

### **Supplement not Supplant**

- An LEA must ensure that services to students participating in Title I, Part A are additional to the regular services an LEA would otherwise provide with State and local funds. Title I resources cannot replace or supplant services that an LEA would ordinarily provide to all its students.

### **Reasonable and Necessary**

- All expenditures must be reasonable and necessary.

## Program Reviews

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Program reviews of Title I programs are conducted in order to ensure that: (1) every child has a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education, (2) programs are compliant with federal requirements that are most closely related to positive outcomes for students; and (3) taxpayer dollars are administered and used in accordance with how Congress and the United States Department of Education (USDE) intended.

## Guiding Questions

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- How will the Title I program provide opportunities for every student, including those from historically underserved populations, to meet State academic standards?
- How will Title I program support Title I schools that:
  - Are Focus or Priority Schools?
  - Have Priority Improvement or Turnaround Plan assignments?
- What is the intended outcome of the proposed activities and does it align with the purpose of Title I?