



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
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State Superintendent of Education

BULLETIN NO. 04-09

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Title I, Part A Directors

FROM: Gina Hopper, Division Administrator, Grants and Programs

RE: Equitable Participation Of Private School Students

CONTACT: Suzanne Dillow, Principal Consultant, 217-833-3515, sdillow@isbe.net

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, under Title I, Part A, Section 1120, requires public school officials to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided by the school district to eligible public school children.

Section 1120(a)(4) further requires that Title I expenditures to provide these educational services and other benefits to eligible private school children be equal to the proportion of funds allocated to participating public school attendance areas based on the number of private school children from low-income families. Participating private schools are eligible for instructional, parental involvement and professional development programs and services.

The local school district is responsible for planning, designing, and implementing the Title I program for private school children. *The amount of Title I funds for serving private school children who are failing or at risk of failing and who reside in participating public school attendance areas is determined on the number of private school children from low income families who reside in participating public school attendance areas.* The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requires public school officials who accept Title I funds to determine these numbers each year.

Calculating the correct allocation to provide equitable services to private school students begins with identifying the number of private school children from low income families that reside in Title I participating attendance areas. Through the consultation process with private school officials, public school officials may select one or more of the following ways to determine the number of private school children from low income families:

- Use the same measure of low income used to count public school children, which is usually the free and reduced-price lunch count; or
- Use the results of a survey that, to the extent possible, protects the identities of families of private school students. (Such survey results are extrapolated if complete actual data are unavailable.); or
- Apply the low-income percentage of each participating public school attendance area to the number of private school children who reside in that attendance area (i.e., proportionality); or

- Use an equated measure of low income to compare the count of low-income public school children with the low-income private school population.

Once the total number of participating, low-income private school children has been determined, these numbers are entered into ISBE's E-Grants system in the NCLB Consolidated Application.

Remember: each LEA that receives over \$500,000 in Title I funds must set aside 1% of the current year allocation for services to parents, a portion of which must be directed to parents of children attending private schools. LEAs should add the number of low-income public school students *residing in Title I participating attendance areas* and the number of low-income private school students *residing in Title I participating attendance areas*. Using that total, LEAs must then calculate the private school proportionate share of the total rather than the proportionate share of the public school. Once that number has been calculated, the LEA would multiply that number and the total amount reserved for parental involvement, any amount reserved for activities under section 1119, or any amount reserved for districtwide instructional services, such as summer school. The LEA must then subtract the equitable share for parental involvement and then allocate at least 95 percent of the remainder to Title I public schools. LEAs would multiply the proportion by each amount reserved for activities under section 1119, or any amount reserved for districtwide instructional service to calculate the private school's equitable share.

The following is an example of how the proportion is computed within ISBE's E-Grant system.

At the bottom of the Title I Program Specific Targeting Step Four, the number of public and private low income students is listed. For this example, let the LEA current year allocation equal \$6,432,000. The parent involvement 1% set aside would be \$64,320. From Program Specific Targeting Step Four, there are 2,500 low income public school students and 375 low income private school students residing in the attendance area. Add the total of public and private low income students and you have a total of 2,875 low income students. Next determine a ratio of public to private students ($375 / 2875 = .130435$) rounded to six decimal points. The final step is to multiply the 1% set aside of \$64,320 by the ratio (.130435), to reach the amount, \$8,390 in this example, of the parent involvement set-aside for parents of children attending private schools. If an LEA is required to set aside 5% of the Title I grant to help all teachers become highly qualified the private school must receive an equitable share of these funds also. If you take the current year Title I allocation and multiply it by 5% this would give you the amount for insuring all teachers become highly qualified. Multiple the 5% amount by the same ratio used for parental involvement to find the private share of these funds.

Additional instructions will accompany the release of the FY 10 NCLB Consolidated Application for the district's use.

RESOURCES

- No Child Left Behind Legislation – Section 1120 - Participation of Children Enrolled in Private Schools: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1120>
- Ensuring Equitable Services to Private School Children – A Title I Resource Toolkit: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/ps/titleitoolkit.pdf>
- Equitable Services to Eligible Private School Students, Teachers, and Other Educational Personnel, U.S. Department of Education, Non-Regulatory Guidance, August 2005: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>
- Title I Services to Private School Children, U.S. Department of Education, Non-Regulatory Guidance, October 17, 2003: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>