

Title I Funding:

Quick Facts for School Nutrition Staff

Quick Facts About Title I

- Title I is the largest federal K-12 education program that gives states funding to allocate to schools and school districts with high percentages or numbers of children from low-income households. Title I is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- States distribute approximately \$18 billion annually to schools and districts. Funding can be used to support extra instruction, materials, afterschool/summer programming, etc.
- US Census poverty data determines how much Title I funding is allocated to each state or school district.
- Participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), or other universal meals options, does not impact the amount of Title I funding states or school districts receive.
- Free and reduced-price school meal data is not an allowable measure to determine the amount a state receives; however, it can be used in district-level allocations (discussed below).

How Schools Receive Title I Funding

1. States receive specific Title I funds from the Department of Education based on US census child poverty data and the cost of education in each state.
2. States distribute nearly all Title I funds to school districts by using formulas that are also based on US census child poverty data.
3. School districts distribute their Title I funding to individual schools based on school-level poverty data. School districts use one or more of the federally allowable poverty measures to prioritize funding to schools (see below).

Measuring School Poverty and Prioritizing Schools

Schools are generally eligible for Title I funding if the poverty rate is 35% or more. ESEA law and subsequent guidance states that school districts can use multiple measures to determine the number of students from low-income households, which are then used to rank schools and allocate Title I funding accordingly. Allowable poverty measures include:

- The number of students who are eligible for:
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Meals
 - Medicaid
- The number of students identified through:
 - Census poverty estimates
 - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) data: Identified Student Percentage (ISP) with or without the 1.6 multiplier
- Children in households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- A combination of two or more of the above measures