

TITLE IA PRIVATE SCHOOL Q & A SHEET

Private School Non-Regulatory Guidance:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/non-public-education/files/equitable-services-guidance-100419.pdf>

1. What are the FREE/REDUCED lunch income guidelines?

2026-2027 Free & Reduced Lunch Income Guidelines

Use as guidance for Eligibility Data below. Household size includes adults.

Household Size	FREE LUNCH/ FREE MILK INCOME GUIDELINES		REDUCED LUNCH INCOME GUIDELINES	
	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly
2	28,132	2,345	40,034	3,337
3	35,516	2,960	50,542	4,212
4	42,900	3,575	61,050	5,088
5	50,284	4,191	71,558	5,964
6	57,668	4,806	82,066	6,839
7	65,052	5,421	92,574	7,715
8	72,436	6,037	103,082	8,591

2. Who determines the amount of funding for the private schools?

The state has private schools identify the number of low-income students within the state student enrollment data reporting platform, Connect. The state places private school students at the school that has the most students in the grade from the specific town to calculate the proportional shares.

3. What are some methods the private school can use to identify the number of low-income students?

The private school can identify free and/or reduced students using National School Lunch Program data. The private school can also use a tuition assistance information or a survey to identify additional students who meet the free/reduced poverty lunch metrics and add them into Connect, marked as free or reduced. If a private school has access to SNAP/TANF/MaineCare qualifying students, they can enroll students who qualify for these metrics as well. If a private school inputs their full student enrollment, the Maine Department of Education will verify and mark any additional enrolled students who qualify.

4. What are the regulatory requirements for LEA consultation with private schools?

Under §200.63 of the Title I regulations consultation must, at a minimum, address the following issues:

- How the LEA will identify the needs of eligible private school children.
- What services the LEA will offer to eligible private school children.
- How and when the LEA will make decisions about the delivery of services.
- How, where, and by whom the services will be provided to eligible private school children.
- How the LEA will assess academically the services to private school children, and how the LEA will use the results of that assessment to improve Title I services.
- The size and scope of the equitable services that the LEA will provide to eligible private school children, the proportion of its Title I funds that the LEA will allocate for these services, and how the proportion of funds is determined.
- The method or sources of data used to determine the number of children from low-income families in participating school attendance areas who attend private schools.
- The services the LEA will provide to teachers and families of participating private school children.

Consultation must also include – –

- Discussion whether the LEA will provide services directly or will use a separate government agency, consortium, entity, or third-party contractor,
- Thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the private school officials on whether the LEA should contract with a third-party provider. If the LEA disagrees with the views of the private school officials on that issue, the LEA must provide in writing to those officials the reasons why the LEA has chosen not to use a third-party contractor.
- Information on when, including the approximate time of day, services will be provided; and
- Whether to pool private school resources or not;
- Whether to consolidate and use other equitable service funds under applicable programs to support Title I students.

The agreed upon outcomes of these items should be in writing as part of a formal agreement between the public and non-public entities.

5. What types of services are available for private school students?

Services for participating private school children include, but are not limited to, the following: Instructional services; extended day services; family literacy programming; counseling programs; computer aided instruction; home tutoring; instruction using take-home computers. All services must be provided by public school employee(s) or third party contractor(s) who are hired and directed by the public school.

6. Who hires staff to provide Title IA services at a private school?

The LEA hires and pays the staff person and directs the activities of the person based on the agreement developed in consultation with the private school.

7. Who can provide Title IA services at a private school?

Certified LEA teachers, Ed Techs who are under the direct supervision of an LEA teacher while both are at the private school, OR a third party contractor that is under the direction and supervision of the LEA.

8. Which private school students are eligible for Title IA services?

To be eligible for Title IA services a private school student must meet the educational selection criteria agreed upon in consultation with the private school AND would attend a Title IA school based on the student's residence.

9. Can Title IA services be delivered at the private school in the general educational classroom?

No, Title IA instructional services must not be provided in the general educational classroom nor to a non-identified Title IA student. The funds are for use with identified and eligible Title IA students only. The regulations prohibit the use of Title I funds for the needs of the private school or the general needs of the children in the private school.

10. Do private school officials have the right to complain?

If the LEA disagrees with the views of the private school officials with respect to the consultation topics, the LEA is required to provide in writing to the private school officials why the LEA disagrees. In addition, private school officials have the right to complain to the SEA if they believe that an LEA did not engage in timely and meaningful consultation, did not consider their views, or did not make a decision that treats the private school students equitably. The SEA complaint procedure is located at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.do/files/inline-files/Private%20School%20Complaint%20Process%202018.doc>

11. How is fiscal control maintained?

The control of funds used to provide services for private school students and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with those funds, shall be with the LEA and are available on loan at the private school for the duration of the project. Reimbursement to the private school for expenses incurred by the private school is not allowed. The LEA is fiscally responsible for payment to vendors and staff.

(SAMPLE SCHOOL SURVEY TO PARENTS)

PRIVATE SCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN TITLE IA SURVEY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This survey will provide information needed by the State Department of Education to determine the amount of instructional funds available for Title IA supplemental educational services for children in this private school. If you have any questions, please call _____ at _____. The due date to return this survey to your school administrator is September ____, 2026. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

2026-2027 Free & Reduced Lunch Income Guidelines

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Example of Eligibility Criteria for 5(b):

If a family of 4 earns \$58,025 yearly AND receives tuition assistance to attend the private school, this family **WOULD MEET** eligibility criteria under the **5b** since the yearly family income is less than \$61,050. The family would not meet eligibility criteria for **5a** because the yearly income is more than \$50,542.

Student Address	Current Grade	Check All Eligibility Data Criteria Met	Name of District & School Child Would Attend If Not Enrolled in Private School
Child #1 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____		☐ (1) Meets Free Lunch Income ☐ (2) Meets Reduced Lunch Income ☐ (3) Receives Food Stamps ☐ (4) Receives Medicare ☐ (5a) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Free Lunch Income Above ☐ (5b) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Reduced Lunch Income Above	District: _____ School: _____
Child #2 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____		☐ (1) Meets Free Lunch Income ☐ (2) Meets Reduced Lunch Income ☐ (3) Receives Food Stamps ☐ (4) Receives Medicare ☐ (5a) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Free Lunch Income Above ☐ (5b) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Reduced Lunch Income Above	District: _____ School: _____
Child #3 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____		☐ (1) Meets Free Lunch Income ☐ (2) Meets Reduced Lunch Income ☐ (3) Receives Food Stamps ☐ (4) Receives Medicare ☐ (5a) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Free Lunch Income Above ☐ (5b) Receives Tuition Assistance based upon Reduced Lunch Income Above	District: _____ School: _____

Use back side for additional children. Return this form to your school administrator by September ____, 2026