

Topic

Ranking & Distribution for Title I – Segment 2

Introduction

“Welcome to the Ranking & Distribution Page – Segment 2 focusing on the ranking and distribution rules!

Content

In the first segment, we learned about the eligibility of schools and those rules somewhat align to the Rank & Distribution rules.

Rank & Distribution of Funds: A district with less than 1000 students or a district with more than 1000 students but with only one school building at each grade level does not have to follow the rank & distribution of funds rules. All the schools are eligible to receive funds and the district may distribute Title I funds to eligible schools as it determines is most appropriate after a thorough needs assessment of its schools has been completed.

Rank & Distribution rules must be followed if a district has more than 1000 students and at least one grade level with multiple school buildings.

So with this example we have on the screen, we have more than 1000 students and we have more than one building at each grade level; therefore, we must following the rank and distribution rules.

The default setup for the Ranking of Schools and Distribution of Funds school chart is by poverty ranking. In column 4 it shows the highest poverty to lowest poverty school. Let us review the rules to determine if poverty ranking will meet our needs.

Rank & Distribution Rules:

- Schools with a school level poverty greater than 75% must be served. We have Pine Valley Middle School at 95% therefore that school must be served with Title I funds. A new rule under ESSA allows high schools with a school level poverty greater than 50% to be served in this priority span.
- The remaining schools may be served using continued school level poverty ranking or the remaining schools may be sorted for grade span priority ranking. Pine Island High School is at 57% so you could or may decide to serve that school with the schools above 75% that must be served. The Pine Valley High School cannot go in that category. After a thorough needs assessment, it is decided that the Pine Island High School will not be moved to that level of priority.
- The next ranking rule says that the remaining funds may be distributed using continuing poverty ranking or the remaining schools may be ranked using grade span priority ranking. Some of the

next rules will help us decide if we can continue using poverty ranking or if we need to use grade span ranking.

- The higher poverty schools must receive a higher or equal School Level Per Pupil Amount than a lower poverty school.
- A higher poverty school should not be skipped to serve a lower poverty school. If this occurs, the LEA will most likely need to switch to Grade Spanning].

So if we look at some of these rules and apply them to this school chart we find that Pine Island Middle school is at 70% and we don't intend to serve this school even though it is eligible. The next school is Pine Valley Elementary School and we are looking to serve that school. The rule says we can't skip a higher poverty school. If we do, we will have to consider the grade spanning provision. Then we say a higher poverty school must receive a higher per pupil amount so when we look at the highest poverty school and their per pupil amount in the last column is it being served at the higher per pupil amount than the next lower poverty school that we want to serve. Pine Valley Elem School is being served based on its school level funding divided by the School Level # of Low Income Students it has a per pupil amount of \$327 so it is lower than the higher poverty one. You can continue down through. Is Pine Island Primary at a lower poverty level than the previous higher school? At \$230 the answer is yes but we've skipped another school. The next school Pine Mt Elementary is at \$241. Is that lower than the previous higher poverty school? The answer is no. We also have an issue with that one.

- Then there is the 125% rule that says if we are serving schools below 35% and schools greater than 35%, we must ensure that the school level per pupil amount in column 8 that has been calculated in the upper left chart. The chart says you must ensure a per pupil amount of \$218.78 in column 8. We do meet that requirement.

So when assessing if we can maintain our ranking by poverty, the answer is no. We must go to grade span ranking for this district.

To change to grade span ranking, click the Change To Ranking by Grade Span button at the bottom of the page. This brings us to the Grade Spanning Process.

Data will no longer disappear when changing between the two different ranking methods.

Grade Spanning

What is our priority span? The first priority are those schools that are 75% or greater so we will place that school in the priority one grade span that was one of the middle schools. The low grade will be 6 and the high grade will be 8 and the school selection would be Pine Valley Middle School at 90% and would add that span. Then we go to Priority 2 grade span. Our priority span next would be our lower elementary schools. We will call our next grade span K-5 because we believe our funds are better utilized in the lower grades click all the schools that are in the K-5 grade span regardless of their actual grade spans. We will continue to isolate our schools by grade span so we'll have a 6-8 middle school and we have our 9-12 grade span. The chart regenerates itself based on those priority spans we just

created. So we have our Pine Valley at 92% as our Priority 1 span that we must serve first as part of the 75% rule. When you do reach that 75% you could say that maybe I don't want to use the Free & Reduced Lunch numbers and use the lower poverty numbers associated with Free lunch only and maybe these schools would not reach that 75% level. But because this does, we will roll with using the 75% rule in this situation. We said our next priority is K-5 but because the grade spans of each building are not actually all K-5, we will adjust the Grade Span column to reflect the actual grade spans. Pine Valley is actually a 3-5 school and Pine Island Primary is actually a K-2 schools. Then Pine Mt which is actually is a 3-6 school. Once we make those changes, we will Post/Update.

Then revisit to make sure our rank and distribution rules have been met. The highest poverty school in the 75% span is at \$379. The highest poverty school has the highest per pupil amount. We're good. Our next grade span is our K-5 schools. The highest poverty one at 61% Pine Valley Elementary starts a new span at \$327. It is below the highest poverty school in the first span so it is OK. The next school's per pupil amount is at \$230 so that is equal to or lower to the \$327. When we get to the next school in that span we have \$241. This is a lower poverty school and is receiving a higher per pupil amount. Therefore, there is an issue. To fix this issue, the district would have to go back to the school project pages and reduce the amount of money this school receives and would probably have to split the time the person works at that school versus the amount of time at the school where the additional resources were moved.

As we continue we are not providing Title I resources to the other middle or high schools. We would have to go back and adjust Pine Mt. Elementary School hopefully it is below the \$230 amount for Pine Island Primary. Once this is fixed, this page would look correct since we have not skipped any schools. The 125% rule was followed and met.

Additional information is available through the USED Non-Regulatory Guidance document for Ranking & Distribution located at www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/wdag.doc.

Closing

"This concludes the second segment of guidance material on the Title I Ranking & Distribution Page as it relates to the rules of ranking schools and distributing Title I funds to schools. For additional questions, please, reach out to your assigned ESEA Federal Programs Regional Team Member."