

Topic

Ranking & Distribution for Title I – Segment 1

Introduction

“Welcome to the Ranking & Distribution Page! The purpose of this form is to assist the district with calculating Title IA school level funding and per pupil amounts for each eligible school to be served with Title I funding and to ensure that the district is in compliance with funding requirements.

It is important to remember that under ESSA high schools have been provided with flexibility for priority to receive Title I funds. More on this later.

Content

We will review the contents of the Rank & Distribution page in this first part and then dive into the funding requirements for Title I Ranking of Schools and distribution of funds in the second part. The first block in the upper left corner auto calculates the required Per Pupil Expenditure amount for the 125 rule as the data is completed in the school chart below. If a district with 1000+ students provides Title I funding to any school below 35% poverty (Col. 4), it must ensure that the School Level Per Pupil Amount in Col. 8 meets the Per Pupil Expenditures amount (last column) in this block.

The chart to the right—Determination of Title IA Funds—also auto populates from Financial Transfer Worksheet and District Projects to auto calculate the amount of Title I funds to be dedicated to the Title I schools.

Let’s review the columns of the school chart.

The system is defaulted to rank schools by poverty ranking. If you know that your district uses Grade Span ranking, you will click the button at the bottom of the page to *Change to Ranking by Grade Span*. I’ll discuss Ranking by Grade Span a little later in the second segment.

SAU Schools: The list auto populates from the schools listed in the Site Setup. If the schools/school names are not current, please contact your ESEA Regional Program Manager.

Grade Span: Ensure that the current Grade Span of that school is accurate. It always allows for Manual Entry/Update.

School Level Enrollment: Choose a point in time from the previous year for the school’s enrollment. The same point in time must be used for all schools.

School Level # of Low Income Students: Choose the same enrollment point in time for the number of low income students. The same point in time must be used for all schools.

School Level Poverty %: This column will auto calculate once the *Post/Update* button is clicked.

Low Income Data: Choose the correct identifier for the low-income/poverty data used. It appears that all data used by districts refer to the following: Free lunch eligible students, Free & Reduced (F&R) lunch eligible students, Community Eligibility Program (CEP) student counts, or CEP plus the CEP multiplier (1.6) count. The FREE and CEP counts align and the F&R and CEP+multiplier counts align. All CEP and non-CEP schools must use the data sets that create alignment. If all schools are CEP schools, you may choose to use CEP counts or CEP+multiplier counts. If you have further questions regarding CEP, you may contact your local Food Service Coordinator. There is also a USED Non-Regulatory Guidance document outlining CEP and Title I connections at www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/15-0011.doc.

Eligibility Rules: Regardless of the distribution of Title I funds, here are the Title I school eligibility requirements. The dropdown menu contains YES for an eligible school, NO if a school is not eligible, or GRANDFATHERED if not eligible but received Title I funds in the previous year.

Title I School Eligibility	YES/NO/ Grandfathered	R & D Rules
SAU with less than 1000 students	All schools eligible	No R&D rules
SAU with more than 1000 students and only one building at each grade	All schools eligible	No R&D rules
Schools with poverty greater than 35%	Eligible	Follow R&D rules
Schools with poverty greater than district average	Eligible	Follow R&D rules
A school that was served in the previous year and falls below the 35% or below the district average poverty % may be served for one additional year	Grandfather-Eligible	Follows R&D rules

School Level Funding: This column is auto populated from the amount of Title I funding on the school level project page budget line. If a number in this column requires a change, you must amend the school level Title I project page budget line. The school level funding for each school must be the amount that is needed for the Title I staff and its program at the school. Finally, the total amount in this column on the bottom row should match the Amount Dedicated to Schools in the upper right hand chart—Determination of Title I Funds. If the amounts do not match, you will need to adjust the school or district level project budget amounts for Title I on the project pages.

School Level Per Pupil Amount: This is auto calculated by dividing the School Level Funds by the School Level # of Low Income Students. This Per Pupil Amount is used to evaluate if the Distribution of Funds Rules have been met which will be reviewed in the next segment.

Closing

“This concludes the first segment of this guidance material on the Title I Ranking & Distribution Page as it relates to the columns of information to be completed. The next segment will be focused on applying the Ranking & Distribution rules and reviewing the difference between poverty ranking and grade span ranking. For additional questions, please reach out to your assigned ESEA Federal Programs Regional Team Member.”

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 some of the

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 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.

Rank & Distribution Rules:

- Schools with a school level poverty greater than 75% must be served. High schools with a school level poverty greater than 50% MAY 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.
- 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].

The default setup for the Ranking of Schools and Distribution of Funds school chart is by poverty ranking. If the district needs to setup it's school chart by grade spanning, click the Change To Ranking by Grade Span button at the bottom of the page. Data will no longer disappear when changing between the two different ranking methods.

Grade Spanning

If there is a 75% or higher school, those schools must be in the first span, then grade level spans need to be chosen. If a building crosses grade level spans, it is placed in the most appropriate span. Once the priority/grade spanning is complete, the school building grade span column must be updated to ensure that the actual grade span of the building is accurate.

The first step in the grade spanning process will prompt you to set the low and high grades of the first priority group. Then it requires you to click the schools that will be included in this group. Then click the add button. These steps are done for each of the spans in priority order until all schools have been selected for a group. Update the actual school building grade spans.

Finally, review the School Level Per Pupil Amount to ensure that the highest poverty school in the first grade span group is receiving an equal or higher per pupil amount than the next lower poverty school in the grade span group and so on. The highest poverty school in the next group must receive an equal or lower per pupil amount than the highest poverty school in the previous grade span group. The next lower poverty school in the second grade span group must receive an equal or lower per pupil amount than the higher poverty school in that grade span group, and so on.

If adjustments need to be made to the school level funding to adjust the school level per pupil amounts, you must adjust the appropriate school level project budget line for Title I.

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.”