

Title I 101 -Tip Sheet Handout 1

Overview of Title I

Title I is the largest federal aid program for improving the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students. Originally enacted under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, ESEA was reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and signed into law on January 2002.

The goal of ESEA and the purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

New York State's ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request, was initially approved by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) in 2012, then renewed by USDOE in 2015. ESEA was reauthorized by Congress as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and signed into law by President Obama in December 2015.

Title I under ESSA changes from "improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged" to "improving basic programs operated by state and local educational agencies."

While the key components of Title I are maintained under ESSA, there are some changes to program and accountability requirements that are in the process of being evaluated by the state and city.

How is Title I Funding Allocated?

Title I funding is allocated by the federal government to states for distribution to eligible districts and schools. New York State distributes Title I Funds to eligible districts and schools. In NYC, student's eligibility for free lunch (poverty percentage) determines Title I eligibility. The county poverty percentage cut-off for this school year is 60% for Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan, and 48.05% for Staten Island.

Two Types of Title I Programs

Targeted Assistance

All Title I eligible schools start as Targeted Assistance (TA). Targeted Assistance schools receive Title I, Part A funds to target services to a select group of children identified as not meeting, or most at risk of not meeting the state's content standards rather than for overall school improvement. Only Title I eligible students are able to participate in a Title I funded activity.

Schoolwide Program

The purpose of a Schoolwide Program is to improve academic achievement throughout a school so that all students, particularly the lowest-achieving students, demonstrate proficiency related to the state's academic content standards. A Schoolwide Program addresses the educational needs of all children with comprehensive strategies for improving the whole school so that every student can achieve high levels of academic proficiency. A Schoolwide Program builds on schoolwide reform strategies, rather than separate, add-on services.

The Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact

As part of the school's educational planning process, Title I schools, through the School Leadership Team and Title I parent representatives, are required to jointly develop and agree upon a Parent Involvement Policy (PIP) that includes a School-Parent Compact (SPC) as a component. At the end of the year, Title I parent representatives are required to assess the effectiveness of the plan. The parent involvement activities included in the PIP must be focused on improving student achievement and aligned with the school plan, thus informing a cycle of continuous improvement planning.

The sections of the document include the:

Parent Involvement Policy (PIP): The PIP should describe how the school will plan and implement effective parent involvement activities and/or strategies to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

School-Parent Compact (SPC): The SPC is a component of the PIP that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share this responsibility.

Title I: Part A: Funding for Students in Temporary Housing (STH)

In accordance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Chancellor's Regulation A-780, schools must identify, serve, and report the number of students who are living in temporary housing. Students in Temporary Housing (STH) are Title I eligible regardless of the school they attend. Non-Title I schools will receive a Title I allocation based on the number of STH students enrolled multiplied by their respective county per capita amount. Both Title I and Non-Title I schools with STH students must maintain records of the number of STH students served, staff that work with STH students, a listing of services provided with Title I funds, as well as display the STH poster prominently in the school.

Title I Parent Involvement Funds

A minimum of 1% of the school's Title I allocation is set aside to fund the parent involvement activities (*an additional 1% is set aside for parent engagement/education activities for Priority and Focus schools*) included in the school's PIP and SPC. The goal of these funds is to build the capacity of the school's Title I parents to become effective partners with the school to improve student achievement.

Examples of Appropriate Use of Title I Funds

Workshop Topics for Title I parents about the following topics:

- City and State Standards (e.g., Common Core)
- Curriculum
- Family Literacy
- Promotion or Graduation Requirements
- Using Technology to Monitor Your Child's Progress
- Title I, Part A Requirements
- School and District Accountability
- How to Work with Your Child's Teacher
- Safety and Gang Awareness
- Internet Safety or Bullying
- Middle and High School Selection Process
- Nutrition or Health
- College and Career Readiness
- Workshops (Cultural, Diversity, Parenting skills, cost of community based organization (CBO) presenter)

Activities:

- Creating a school-parent newsletter, handbook, calendar, or website
- Staff-parent book clubs
- Translation of information into any language spoken by a significant number of Title I parents
- Joint staff-parent professional development seminars (e.g., cost of materials and presenters)
- Partnerships with NYC cultural institutions
- Creation of a parent resource room or lending library, purchase of parent development resources
- Reimbursement to parents for reasonable transportation expenses (e.g., Metro Cards) associated with attendance and participation during Title I workshops, activities, and meetings
- Reasonable expenditures for light refreshments or food, particularly when parent involvement activities extend through mealtime

Examples of Non-Allowable Expenditures and Activities

- Activities that do not relate directly to the Title I educational program or provide an opportunity to turnkey professional development content to Title I parents will not be allowed
- Activities that do not have an intrinsic educational or cultural value will not be allowed (e.g., trips to amusement parks, visits to shopping centers, dinner cruises, or sporting events)
- Theatrical performances (plays) that do not have an intrinsic educational or cultural value
- Payments (or stipends) to non-DOE approved consultants or providers
- Incentives that do not relate to the Title I educational program (i.e. tee shirts or mugs)
- School dances (e.g., father-daughter and mother-son dances)
- Recreational trips for students or parents
- Staff salaries
- SLT remuneration payments
- Refreshments for regularly scheduled meetings of the Parent Association (PA) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or SLT
- Athletic Equipment
- Cruises (e.g. dinner cruises, Spirit of New York, Circle Line)