

What is Title I?

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



This program provides financial assistance through SEAs (State Educational Agencies – MDE) to LEAs (Local Education Agencies – local districts) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. Unless a participating school is operating a schoolwide program, the school must focus Title I services on children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet state academic standards. Schools in which poor children make up at least 40 percent of enrollment are eligible to use Title I funds for schoolwide programs that serve all children in the school. LEAs also must use Title I funds to provide academic enrichment services to eligible children enrolled in private schools.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

More than 50,000 public schools across the country use Title I funds to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children master challenging curricula and meet state standards in core academic subjects. For example, funds support extra instruction in reading and mathematics, as well as special preschool, after-school, and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This program provides financial assistance through State educational agencies (SEAs) to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.
- LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. Unless a participating school is operating a schoolwide program, the school must focus Title I services on children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet State academic standards. Schools enrolling at least 40 percent of students from poor families are eligible to use Title I funds for schoolwide programs that serve all children in the school.
- Title I reaches about 12.5 million students enrolled in both public and private schools. Title I funds may be used for children from preschool age to high school, but most of the

students served (about 65%) are in grades 1 through 6, another 12 percent are in preschool and kindergarten programs.

- Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and amplify efforts to improve teaching and learning for students farthest from meeting State standards. Individual public schools with poverty rates above 40% may use Title I funds, along with other Federal, State, and local funds, to operate a “school wide program” to upgrade the instructional program for the whole school. Schools with poverty rates below 40%, or those choosing not to operate the school wide program, offer a “targeted assistance program” in which the school identifies students who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State’s challenging performance standards, then designs, in consultation with parents, staff, and district staff, an instructional program to meet the needs of those students.
- Both school wide and targeted assistance programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement.
- Both school wide and targeted assistance programs are required to spend one percent of their Title I budget on parent involvement programs and materials.
- Parents of each student attending schools receiving Title I funds have the right to request the professional qualifications of their student’s classroom teachers. If the student is receiving instructional services from paraprofessionals, parents may also request the qualifications of the paraprofessional. These requests should be directed to the Director of Human Resources, Mr. Phil Francis. All instructional staff at Cooper meet the highly qualified criteria under the No Child Left Behind law.

