



Title I, Part A and Early Childhood Programs

Title I, Part A services focus on children who are most at risk of failing to meet state academic standards. Title I, Part A provides *supplemental* services for children preschool through grade 12.

High-quality preschool programs supported with Title I funds help ensure that children have the foundation they need for early learning and development to meet standards and experience success throughout elementary and secondary school and beyond.

Title I Preschool Programs

A Title I preschool is supplemental and designed specifically to improve the achievement of preschool children who are most at risk of failing to meet the state's achievement standards.

A Local Education Agency (LEA) may use all or a portion of its Title I funds to operate a Title I preschool program for eligible children. Title I requirements, including the supplanting rule, apply to the early childhood program. A description of the preschool program and the transition plan (including issues related to school readiness) for preschool students entering elementary school must be included in the Title I District Plan. Programs must heed Head Start standards.

Schoolwide: If a school is operating a schoolwide Title I program, then it may serve all students residing within the attendance area. If the school cannot serve all students, it must establish and apply selective criteria to ensure that the most at-risk students are served.

Targeted Assistance: If a school is targeted assistance, then only students who are identified as failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet state standards when they reach school age are eligible to be served with Title I funds.

Districtwide Preschool: Schools who wish to operate a preschool for the district must reserve a portion of the Title I allocation. The LEA may choose to serve all eligible children in the district as a whole or those in just a portion of the district. **An LEA may use Title I funds to implement a districtwide preschool program to benefit all preschool students only if all the schools in the LEA are Title I schools operating schoolwide programs.**

How Title I Funds might be used?

The funds must be effective and based on the need of its LEA's eligible students. Title I funding may be used for, but not limited to:

- Complement or extend programs based on early learning
- Extend time
- Increase days
- Increase the quality of the program
- Enrich services through the provision of extra personnel for Title I students
- Supplement or expand existing learning programs
- Coordinate with and support eligible children enrolled in other preschool programs
- Professional development for parent and family engagement strategies for Title I early childhood educators
- School readiness services to promote transition

Please feel free to contact Illinois State Board of Education Title Grants Division at (217) 782-3950 with any questions or concerns.