

Title I – Neglected and Delinquent, Part D

Program Goal: To provide interventions appropriate for at-risk neglected and delinquent students in order to increase the percentage of these students meeting the Illinois Learning Standards while placing an emphasis on reading and math.

Purpose: This program's purpose is to provide educational services to children in local and state (Department of Corrections) institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth so that such children:

- have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content standards and challenging state student performance standards as other students, and
- make a successful transition from institutionalization to further schooling and employment.

In addition, this program helps prevent at-risk youth from dropping out of school and provides dropouts and youth returning from institutions with a support system to ensure their continued education.

Population and Service Levels: Currently, there are 32 local education agencies statewide that receive Title I Neglected or Delinquent funding to serve approximately 62 institutions that create supplemental educational programs for 2,295 students. The Department of Corrections (DOC) receives funding to serve a target population of 31 state correctional institutions. The funding is used to provide services in approximately 16 correctional institutions to 4,370 incarcerated residents. The number of students (aged 5-17) to be served is based on an annual student survey count from each institution and completed by the institution and the Department of Corrections.

Reimbursement/Distribution Method: The State Board of Education annually notifies each institution and DOC as to the amount of funds they are eligible to receive based on the survey described above. The Neglected or Delinquent program is a formula grant.

The funding is used to provide services in institutions to create supplemental educational programs. Among this array of programming, the following types of services are offered.

- Year-round programs
- Summer only programs
- Pull-out and inclusion programs both in public and private schools
- Services in detention centers
- Services in short and long-term residential facilities
- Programs serving as few as 15 students to programs serving hundreds of students
- Services to children enrolled in first through 12th grade
- Students receiving service for as few as six months to those in placement programs for more than a year
- Programs operated by LEA staff
- Programs operated by neglected or delinquent institution staff.

Eligibility: Youth are eligible when they reside in a state agency -- DOC -- or private (local) institution for neglected or delinquent children are under age 21 and are entitled to a free public education not above grade 12.

- Institutions for delinquent children: (local/state DOC Juvenile Division): A public or private residential facility that is operated for the care of children who -
 - have been determined to be delinquent or in need of supervision; and
 - have had an average length of stay in the institution of at least 30 days.
- Institutions for neglected children (local): A public or private residential institutions, other than a foster home, that is operated for the care of children who -
 - have been committed to the institution or voluntarily placed in the institution under state law because of abandonment, neglect or death of the parents or guardian;
 - have had an average length of stay in the institution for at least 30 days.
- Adult Correctional Institutions: A facility in which persons are confined as a result of a conviction or a criminal offense, including persons less than 21 years of age.

Monitoring/Technical Assistance: A monitoring procedure has been developed and is used to monitor all neglected or delinquent programs in the state. Compliance monitoring of the Title I neglected or delinquent state and private institutions is an on-going procedure. Monitoring is performed to provide technical assistance to neglected or delinquent projects in an effort to comply with state and federal rules and regulations to bring about statewide program improvement, while increasing the level of compliance. Project compliance includes both adherence to Title I requirements and compliance with approved applications. The monitoring function employs three basic techniques:

- Reviewing documentation
- Interviewing project staff and/or participants
- Observing classroom or other project activities

Technical assistance is also a continuous process due to the complexities of the correctional system and the type of student population served in both correctional and private institutions. Many issues arise in the neglected or delinquent programs that require technical assistance.

Performance Measures and Activities: Services are evaluated based on an application process.

Since June 1977, the Illinois State Board of Education has participated in two federal U.S. Department of Education Corrections Evaluation Projects conducted by the National Council of Crime and Delinquency (NCCD).

- “Feasibility Study to Improve the Quality and Availability of Educational Data on Incarcerated Youth” (Completed June 1997)
- “Case Studies of Promising Title I, Part D, Programs in Six States” (In Progress)

The State of Illinois was selected to participate based on the agency’s history of reporting justice system data to NCCD for other initiatives and for our ability to represent a range of juvenile correctional systems with regard to size, degree of centralization and degree of privatization.

The U.S. Department of Education and the NCCD have compiled promising practices case studies on six states using Title I, Part D (DOC) funds in particularly creative and innovative ways. Illinois’ structure and educational delivery system, which delivers educational activities under an independent, statewide Corrections School District #428, is one such approach.

For additional information, go to the U.S. Department of Education's NCLB website, "Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Families and Communities," at www.nclb.gov/next/fags.