



Question & Answer Session



Can a district use Title IV funds to upgrade playground equipment to meet the 20% safe and healthy requirement?

Answer: No, permanent structures, concrete, asphalt, etc. are not an allowable cost.



What constitutes "light refreshments" for Parent and Family Engagement events?

Answer: Parent and Family Engagement events held during meal periods may provide "light refreshments" to guests. For example, snacks, soft drinks and light meals are permissible if they are reasonable and necessary. Catered meals are not allowable.



What is the schoolwide planning process?

Answer: There are three required elements of a schoolwide program that are essential for effective planning and implementation:

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment*
- 2. Prepare a comprehensive schoolwide plan based upon the comprehensive needs assessment. Schoolwide plans must be approved by the local school board.*
- 3. Evaluate the schoolwide plan annually. (*Does your current plan align to your program? Have needs changed? If the plan does not align, it must be updated.)*

All schools transitioning to schoolwide programming must develop a schoolwide plan and obtain school board approval.

Templates and more information about this process can be found at:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Schoolwide-Programs.aspx>



When do I need to complete a schoolwide waiver?

Answer: Schools that are above 20% and below 40% poverty that wish to operate a schoolwide program must ANNUALLY submit a schoolwide waiver for review 30 days prior to the submission of their application to their ISBE Title Grants Principal Consultant.

Note: The school must be at or above 20% poverty at the time the schoolwide plan is board approved AND when the application is submitted.

For more information and resources, please visit the schoolwide website page at:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Schoolwide-Programs.aspx>



Which grants allow carryover, and what are the limitations for carryover amounts?

Answer: Title I, Title II, Title IV, and Title V allow carryover with the exception of School Improvement 1003a. Title I-A, allows a 15% carryover each year unless a waiver is completed. Titles I-D, II, IV, and V allow 100% carryover.

Note: Carryover limitations are based on current year allocations.



Where can I find answers to questions concerning Title I?

Answer: Answers to questions concerning Title I can be found on the ISBE website under the Title I tab at: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Title-I.aspx>

The US Department of Education website <https://www.ed.gov/> is also a resource for Title I information.



What is the difference between targeted assistance and schoolwide programming?

Answer:

Targeted Assistance: *Title I, Part A funds may only be used to meet the needs of children identified as being in the greatest need of services. All costs must be supplemental and limited to services for eligible students in a targeted assistance program.*

Schoolwide: *Title I Part A funds are used to upgrade the entire educational program in a school so that all students benefit from the use of these funds. Activities must align to the schoolwide plan and support an identified academic need.*



What are some examples of Parent and Family Engagement activities?

Answer: There are a variety of activities that a district can implement for family engagement. Some examples may include; family game nights, reading nights, student-led conferences, etc. These events should include parents and students along with other stakeholders. Please review the family and parent engagement one page resource on the ISBE webpage at:

https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Parent_Family_Engagement.pdf



How will the Federal Census affect our district's poverty counts and funding?

ANSWER: *The data captured by the Census Bureau and used to calculate the Poverty Counts, 5-17 Population Counts, and Poverty Percentages directly impacts what funding streams in Title I that a district may qualify.*

The 2017 Census Bureau estimates are being used for the FY20 (School year 19-20) Title I allocations. Estimates and other adjustments to the Census Data are taken by the USDE every 10 years to determine the yearly estimates.

Please reference our webpage at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Census-Estimates-FY20.aspx> for additional information.



What should my district consider when deciding to have a regular grant period or an extended grant period?

Answer: A district should consider the time period of the budgeted activities to determine if an extension in the grant period is necessary. If the Title grant budget reflects regular year programming through June 30, select a "regular grant period". If a district's Title grant budget reflects summer programming through August 31, then a district should select the "Extended Project Year".



What information should a district include for professional development in the GPRS reports?

Answer:

Follow these general guidelines to report on Professional Development.

- **Deliverables:** *Include names or type of workshops and/or conferences during the reporting period and topics covered.*
- **Results:** *Include the number of staff attending the conference(s) and the impact the conference will have on student achievement.*

Use these resources to help you construct a Grant Periodic Report for PD:

- Title II GPRS Template: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Title-II.aspx>
- GPRS Webinar: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/TitleGrantsWebinarsPresentations.aspx>



Is there a suggested equation/formula in determining a district's FY20 allocation?

Answer: *Yes, weighted formulas based on poverty, census, and average daily attendance are used to calculate allocations. FY20 preliminary grant awards have been released and final allocations will be released in the early fall. Title I Part A is projected for each LEA using the hold harmless percentage of 85%, 90%, or 95%. For Title II, LEAs generate funds based on their number of 5-17-year-olds (20%) and their number of low-income 5-17-year-olds (80%). Title IV allocations are based in part on Title I projected allocations.*



Are districts allowed to spend grant funds prior to approval?

Answer: Districts are allowed to obligate grant funds only AFTER they have submitted a substantially approvable application to ISBE. In addition, any obligation must be made on or AFTER the project begin date. EXAMPLE: If a district submits a substantially approvable application on June 15, they MUST wait until July 1 (start of the grant cycle for Title I, II, and IV) to make any obligations.



What are the different ranking methods? How can a district change which schools are ranked and served?

Answer: *Ranking is the method used to determine which attendance centers are eligible for Title I services and the order in which buildings are ranked and served. All schools are ranked by poverty. Districts with less than 1000 students or having one school per grade span are exempt and may serve any schools. Districts may rank by same or similar grade spans using public and nonpublic values or public values only. A district can change the ranking of schools by manually selecting the method in the grant application that applies to the district. More information can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf>*