



Illinois State Board of Education

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BULLETIN NO. 01-12 (Updated 5/15)

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Title I, Part A Directors

FROM: Melina Wright, Division Administrator, Title Grants Administration Division

RE: Miscellaneous Compliance Issues Required Under NCLB

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This e-bulletin describes several compliance issues that arose recently during a monitoring visit by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

The first part of this e-bulletin discusses unspent funds that were previously “set-aside”—amounts statutorily designated for specific purposes—under Title I, Part A of No Child Left Behind. Next, the e-bulletin provides some reminders about providing equitable services to private school children. Lastly, this e-bulletin discusses the importance of using all available federal funds during the current year. Compliance with each provision of a federal program is a requirement of receiving the funds. Districts need to be able to demonstrate through its records and within the NCLB Application, that it has met all set-aside requirements.

Title I, Part A, Set-Asides (§1118(a)(3)(A) and §1116(c)(7)(A)(iii))

Before allocating Title I, Part A funds to individual schools, the district designates or sets aside a portion of this entitlement “off-the-top” for certain required and optional purposes. This is conducted via the NCLB Consolidated Application. The district will need to be able to demonstrate through its records and within the NCLB Application, that it has met all set-aside requirements. In particular, the district must ensure that funds set-aside for a particular purpose which are not spent during the current fiscal year are set-aside for the same purpose the following year.

For example, districts with allocations of more than \$500,000 must set-aside 1% for parent involvement. If the district’s set-aside was \$5,000, and the district only spent \$2,500 during the current fiscal year, then \$2,500 must be set aside, *in addition to the 1% already required*, for the following fiscal year. Thus, the district would need to set-aside \$7,500 total for parent involvement activities.

Allocating funds to schools in Corrective Action, Restructuring Planning, or Restructuring Statutes (§1116 (b)(10)(D)) (ARCHIVED)

Schools in the above statuses must receive at least 85 % of their previous year’s Title I allocation prior to approving a district’s Title I application. ISBE is planning to modify its application to require districts to assure that 85% of the previous year’s allocation has been awarded to these schools. This will be checked during the application review process.

Equitable Services to Private School Students (§1120(a) and §200.65 of the Title I Regulations (December 2, 2002))

Districts must provide Title I, Part A services for eligible children attending private schools, their teachers, and their families that are comparable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. The Title I, Part A services for private school students must be developed through timely and meaningful consultation with officials of the private schools. The public school district may provide these services directly or through contracts with public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions. The administration and control of Title I, Part A funds, and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with these funds, is the responsibility of the school district. The cost of administering the private school program services is separate and is not to be included to satisfy the equitable expenditures calculation.

It is important to remember that funds set-aside for a particular purpose, for example professional development, cannot be comingled with other funds. The district is required to provide an equitable share of professional development or parent involvement to students and teachers participating in Title I, Part A. Those funding streams must be maintained for their purpose so cannot be comingled with instructional funds.

Carryover Funds (§1126(c))

Each LEA must ensure it budgets all of its Title I, Part A allocation each year. Section 1126(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended requires a State educational agency (SEA), if it determines that the amount of a grant an LEA would receive under sections 1124, 1124A, 1125, and 1125A of the ESEA is more than the LEA will use, to make the excess amount available to other LEAs in the State that need additional funds in accordance with criteria established by the SEA.