

Introduction to Ranking and Allocating Funds to Eligible Title I, Part A Schools

Intent of the Law

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides federal dollars to schools to help children meet high academic standards. Current appropriation does not provide enough money to serve all eligible children; therefore, the intent of the law is to concentrate the funds in schools with the highest percentages of poverty and to provide sufficient funds to make a difference in the academic performance of these students.

Ranking Schools and Allocating Funds

- In order to determine which schools will receive Title I, Part A funds, each district with 1,000 or more enrolled students must put its schools in rank order from highest to lowest concentrations of poverty. For these districts, any building must be served if poverty is greater than 75 percent. See ESEA Section 1113.
- In addition to the rank order process, the district must determine its districtwide average poverty rate. This is automatically calculated in iGrants.

An LEA must annually rank all of its school attendance areas according to their percent of poverty (see example on page 3).

Priority Group A

- (1) Without regard to grade spans, rank school attendance areas with low-income percentage greater than 75% from highest to lowest.
- (2) Under ESSA 1113 (a)(3)(B) – if the district elects, it may lower this the threshold to 50% for high schools served by the LEA.

Priority Group B:

THEN—with remaining funds—LEA may rank remaining eligible school attendance areas from highest to lowest either by grade span or by district average – see illustration on page 3. Read through the law and non-regulatory guidance on this page to gain a full understanding of the requirements of this section.

- LEA Identification and Selection of Schools and Allocation of Title I Funds to Those Schools [Non-Regulatory Guidance](#) (August 2003)
- ESEA Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services [Non-Regulatory Guidance](#) (November 2016)
- ESSA Section 1113 - [Eligible School Attendance Areas](#).

The Numbers

75%+	Building must be served if poverty is greater than 75%, if district enrollment is 1,000 or more. Anything over 75.0% is included.
35%	Building may be allocated funds, even if below district average.
125%	Minimum per-pupil allocation if any building is below 35% poverty is served.

Note: 40% is used to determine if a building is eligible to become a schoolwide program. It does not affect allocation.

Basis of Allocation

75% Rule	Used for buildings with over 75% poverty.
District Average	Used for buildings below 75% poverty (do not use if grade spanning).
Grade Span	Used for buildings below 75% (do not use if using district average).
Feeder	Poverty percent based upon school buildings which "feed" into the building.
35% Rule	Used to reach buildings below district average but over 35% poverty.
Waiver	Extends eligibility of a building which was both eligible and served in prior year, for one additional year.
Less than 1,000	If district student population is less than 1,000, the district may allocate in any manner it chooses.
H.S. 50% or +	The high school's poverty percent is fifty percent or greater and is included in the priority grouping. If a district selects this option, all high schools with 50% or greater poverty must be treated the same.

Skipping a School from Ranking and Allocation

OSPI will allow a district to "skip" a school in the Ranking and Allocation process if it is actually a "program" and not a brick and mortar school. However, if a district accepts the LAP High Poverty School allocation for a "program" school, it cannot treat that school as a "program" when doing ranking and allocation for Title I, Part A.

Previously, OSPI allowed a district to "skip" a school if there was LAP funds in the school. This will not be allowed due to HB 2242 (passed 2017).

Example of Priority Groupings

This illustration is a basic display of ranking and allocating. Refer to section 1113 and non-regulatory guidance for more information.

