

Title I and Private Schools

Frequently Asked Questions:

US Department of Education Guidance:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/equitableeserguidance.doc>

Link to order Private School Toolkit : <http://www.edpub.gov/>

Item: ED002962C

Title: [CD-ROM] ENSURING EQUITABLE SERVICES TO PRIVATE SCHOOL

CHILDREN: A TITLE I RESOURCE TOOL KIT (INTENDED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

Q.& R.: Equitable Services for Private School Children

Question: Which students in the private school generate funds relative to Title I attendance areas in districts where only K-5 (grade span) schools are Title I served?

Response: If a district serves K-5, then the participating private school students who generate funding are the low-income K-5 students residing in Title I attendance areas. Note: the determination is made based on where the private school children reside and not where the private school is located.

Question: Which students in the private school are eligible for Title I services in a district that opts to only serve grades K-5?

Response: On page 59 of the *Title I Resource Toolkit: Ensuring Equitable Services to Private School Children*, under Determining the Need for Services it states, "To be eligible for Title I services, a private school child must reside in a participating public school attendance area." Again, if the district schools participating are only K-5, then it would stand to reason that only the K-5 children in a private school would be eligible for services even if the private school serves other grades (e.g. 6-12).

Question: Are the same children that generate the funds eligible for the Title I services?

Response: The funds are generated by the number of private school children that

- Reside in a public school attendance area that is Title I served, and
- Are determined to be of low income status

The funds are used to provide services for the private school children that

- Reside in a public school attendance area that is Title I served, and
- Are failing or at risk of failing.

Much like in a Targeted Assistance model, Title I funds are generated by low-income children, but Title I services are provided to students based on academic needs. The children that generate the funds may be eligible for the services if they also are the most academically needy.

Question: Are the funds generated by the private schools directly allocated to the private school?

Response: No. The amount of funds generated by the private school children from low-income families are available to provide Title I services. The LEA is responsible for planning and implementing the Title I program in consultation with private school officials. Ultimately, the LEA makes the final decision regarding the provision of services after the consultation has taken place. Although the services provided are similar to services provided in a Targeted Assistance program, the private school is not a Targeted Assistance School.

Question: Are any other Title I funds required to be used to provide equitable services (e.g. Title I parent involvement reservations)?

Response: Yes. The LEA must also provide equitable services to teachers and families from reserved professional development funds and parent involvement funds. Additionally, if the LEA reserves Title I funds for any district-wide initiative, then a proportionate share must also be allocated for services to similar private school children. Note that this requirement does not apply to set-asides for administration, homeless, neglected and delinquent, or school and district improvement.

Question: If an LEA allocates additional funds to schools with funds carried over from the previous year, must the LEA also provide an equitable share for services to private school children?

Response: Yes. For some examples of providing this “equitable share,” refer to page 58 of the Toolkit. Additionally, note that in some cases the LEA must use unobligated funds available for carryover specifically for the private school children.

Question: May the LEA use the funds for providing instructional materials and equipment?

Response: In general, it is allowable to use Title I funds to purchase any books, materials, and equipment necessary to implement the Title I program; however, some important requirements must be considered:

- The LEA retains title to the books, other materials, and equipment purchased with Title I funds;
- Each item purchased with Title I funds must be clearly labeled with labels that are not easily erased or removed;
- The LEA must have a method to track materials and equipment purchased with Title I funds;
- Items purchased with Title I funds may be used only by the Title I participants; and
- The LEA may not use Title I funds for the needs of the private school or the general needs of the children in the school.