

Title I & CEP

Helpful Info for School Nutrition Staff

This resource can help prepare school nutrition staff for conversations with district administrators about how CEP does – and does not – impact federal Title I funding.

What is Title I?

- ✓ \$15 billion in federal education funding for eligible schools based on poverty levels
- ✓ Funding amount for each state is based on U.S. Census poverty data (not free and reduced-price meal data)
- ✓ School districts often distribute their Title I funding to individual schools based on poverty level, usually measured using free and reduced-price meal data as a proxy

What is CEP?

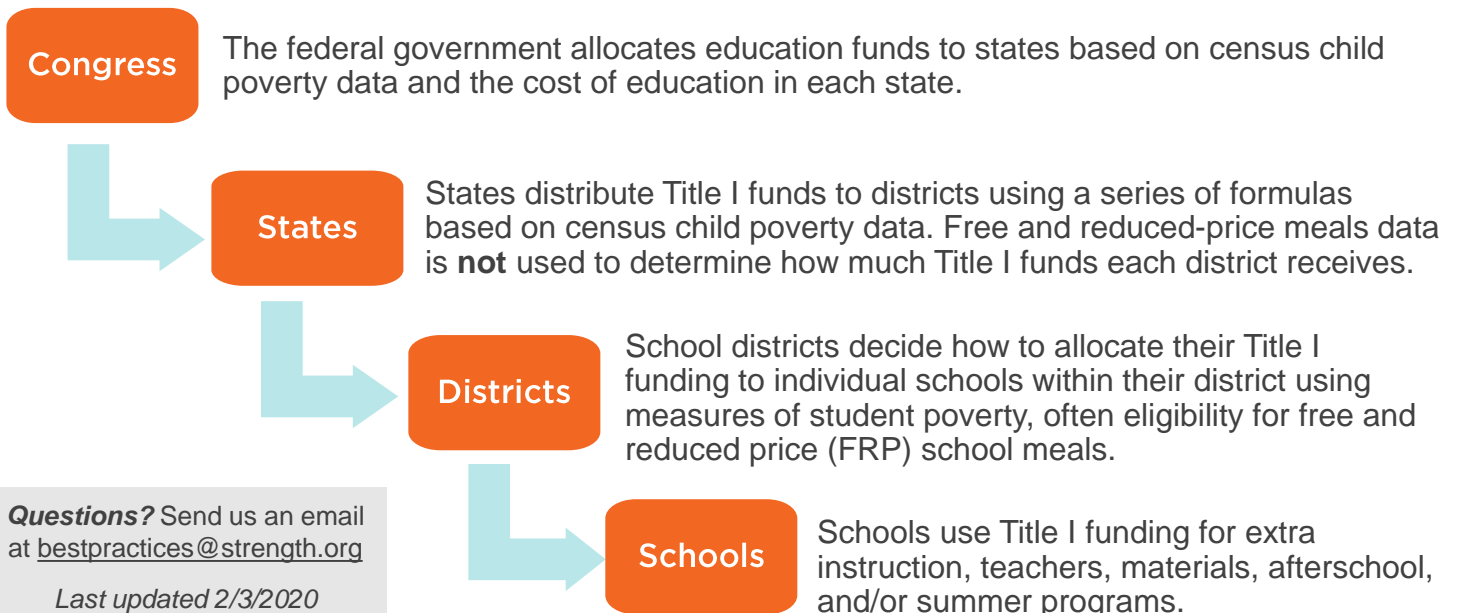
- ✓ The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a school meal funding option for eligible schools to provide healthy school meals to all students at no cost to them
- ✓ CEP creates hunger-free schools
- ✓ CEP reduces administrative burden
- ✓ One benefit of CEP is that schools do not need to collect free and reduced-price meal applications -- CEP schools can use alternative methods for allocating the districts' Title I funding



IMPORTANT!

CEP does not impact the amount of Title I funding that a state or school district receives because the funding is based on child poverty data from the US census, *not* free and reduced-price (FRP) meals applications.

How are Title I Funds Allocated from Congress to Schools?



Questions? Send us an email at bestpractices@strength.org

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How Do Districts Allocate Title I Funds to Schools?



Step 1

School districts must choose which of the following poverty measure(s) they want to use to rank schools by poverty level. (See [section 1113\(a\)\(5\) of the ESEA](#))

- Children ages 5-17 in poverty, as counted in the most recent Census
- Students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals*
*In [question 77 of SP54-2016](#), USDA clarifies that CEP schools may collect household income forms as a substitute for free and reduced price meals applications, though this option increases paperwork burden and may confuse families.
- Identified students (students directly certified for free school meals) with or without a multiplier
- Students in households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Students eligible for Medicaid
- *Any combination of the above*

In addition to the options above, [section 1113\(a\)\(5\)\(B\)\(ii\) of the ESEA](#) states that secondary schools may determine their poverty rate by calculating the average number of economically disadvantaged students in its feeder elementary schools.

Step 2

Using the poverty measure(s) selected, school districts rank their schools based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

Step 3

This ranking of schools determines a school's eligibility to receive Title I funds. (See [section 1113 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act](#))

What About Districts Where Some, but Not All, Schools Are CEP?

When a district *partially* adopts CEP, a common poverty metric must still be used to rank schools and allocate Title I funds on an equitable basis.

Options include, but are not limited to:

- Using the # of identified students x 1.6 in CEP schools and FRP data in non-CEP schools
- Using the # of identified students as a common poverty measure for all schools (with or without the 1.6 multiplier)
- Using the number of students in households with SNAP and/or Medicaid across all schools (both CEP and non-CEP schools)

Examples of these approaches are shown on the next page.

Title I Allocations In School Districts Where Some, But Not All, Schools Are CEP



Option 1

Measure poverty by taking the number Identified Students x 1.6 for CEP schools and using FRP data for non-CEP schools

| School Name | CEP (Y/N) | Enrollment | CEP Schools: Identified Students ¹ | Non-CEP Schools: Students Eligible for FRP Meals ² | 1.6 Multiplier | Economically Disadvantaged Students for Title I Allocations ³ | Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students for Title I Allocations ⁴ | Per-Student Amount, Set by District | Title I Allocation |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---|---|----------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Truth | Y | 425 | 400 | - | 1.6 | 425 | 100% | \$500.00 | \$212,500.00 |
| Wells | Y | 500 | 297 | - | 1.6 | 475 | 95% | \$500.00 | \$237,600.00 |
| Tubman | Y | 600 | 350 | - | 1.6 | 560 | 93% | \$500.00 | \$280,000.00 |
| Angelou | N | 450 | - | 350 | - | 350 | 78% | \$450.00 | \$157,500.00 |
| Davis | N | 400 | - | 200 | - | 200 | 50% | \$450.00 | \$90,000.00 |
| Parks | N | 500 | - | 100 | - | 100 | 25% | \$0 | \$0 |

Option 2

Measure poverty by calculating the number of Identified Students x 1.6 for all schools

| School | CEP (Y/N) | Enrollment | Identified Students (Direct Certification + Categorical Eligibility) ¹ | 1.6 Multiplier | Economically Disadvantaged Students | Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students for Title I Allocations ⁷ | Per-Student Amount, Set by District ⁸ | Title I Allocation ⁴ |
|---------|-----------|------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Truth | Y | 425 | 400 | 1.6 | 425 | 100% | \$500.00 | \$212,500.00 |
| Wells | Y | 500 | 297 | 1.6 | 475 | 95% | \$500.00 | \$237,600.00 |
| Tubman | Y | 600 | 350 | 1.6 | 560 | 93% | \$500.00 | \$280,000.00 |
| Angelou | N | 450 | 210 | 1.6 | 336 | 75% | \$466.10 | \$156,609.60 |
| Davis | N | 400 | 122 | 1.6 | 195 | 49% | \$466.10 | \$90,889.50 |
| Parks | N | 500 | 79 | 1.6 | 126 | 25% | \$0 | \$0 |

Compared to option 1, Davis receives more Title I funding and Angelou receives less funding when all schools use the same poverty measure of ISP x 1.6.

¹ Students identified for free school meals through direct certification and categorical eligibility (e.g. foster care)

² Students certified for FRP school meals through household applications

³ For CEP schools, the # of identified students * 1.6, up to 100% of enrollment. For non-CEP schools, the # of students certified for FRP school meals through household application.

⁴ Economically disadvantaged students per school divided by enrollment; determines the ranking of schools for Title I funds.

⁵ The district determines the per-student amount for Title I allocations. In this example, schools with 90% economically disadvantaged students receive \$500/student, schools with 40-89% receive \$450, and schools with <40% receive \$0.

⁶ The product of the number of economically disadvantaged students and the per-student amount.

⁷ Economically disadvantaged students per school divided by enrollment; determines the ranking of schools for Title I funds.

⁸ The district sets the per-student amount for Title I allocations. In this example, schools with 90% economically disadvantaged students receive \$500/student, schools with 40-89% receive \$466.10, and schools with <40% receive \$0.