



ESEA Consolidated Grant Policy Bulletin

Within District Allocations

Ranking school sites for Title I Eligibility – October 1 data requirements

Category: Compliance and Procedure

Date: 4/30/2025

Effective: FY26 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Consolidated Grant Cycle

Title I, Part A of the ESEA provides federal dollars to schools to help students at risk of not meeting the Arizona K-12 Academic Standards. Current appropriations may not provide enough money to serve all eligible children; therefore, the law intends 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. The table on the next page is designed to assist LEAs in ranking schools to be served with Title I funds based on their selected poverty measure, while following the Arizona Department of Education's guidance on using October 1 data. All data references that are used rely upon the Local Education Agency (LEA) collecting and reporting accurate student-level data for October 1 enrollment counts as required by the Arizona Department of Education. This includes using appropriate methods and forms of collecting data, effective efforts of gathering data for all students with respect to guidance, and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or other applicable programs affecting Income Eligibility reporting.

Summary:

The Academic Achievement Unit strives to support our LEAs as they complete their ESEA Consolidated Grant application. It is vital that the Title I School Eligibility page within that application is both accurate and complete using the correct verifiable data sources for October 1. This policy bulletin is both a reminder of applicable statutes and updated to reflect recent non-regulatory guidance from the United States Department of Education (USED) regarding within-district allocations for Title I-A.

Reference < <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/02/Within-district-allocations-FINAL.pdf> >

Reference < [Sec.1113 of 20 USC § 6313: Eligible School Attendance Areas](#) >

Methods for Serving Title I Funds based on a poverty measure that is aligned with the Integrated Action Plan needs

Ranking Method Name	Rank Order by Poverty Rate?	What Schools <i>MUST</i> be served by Title-I	What Schools <i>MAY</i> be served by Title-I	Other LEA Considerations
<i>Administrative Option - LEA K-12 Enrollment is less than 1,000 total students</i>	Rank order by poverty rate Does Not apply	Not Applicable	Any schools operated by the LEA may be served	LEA K-12 enrollment count must be less than 1,000 students, including AOI
<i>LEA operates one school per grade span or single site</i>	Rank order by poverty rate Does Not apply	Not Applicable	Any schools operated by the LEA may be served	LEA must have no more than one school in each grade span, with NO OVERLAPPING grades amongst sites in the LEA
<i>Poverty Rate for LEA as a whole</i>	Rank order by poverty rate APPLIES	All schools whose poverty rate is above 75%*	Any schools whose poverty rate is above the poverty rate across the LEA	Schools must be served in rank order** by poverty rate district-wide, regardless of grade span
<i>35% Rule Across the LEA</i>	Rank order by poverty rate APPLIES	All schools whose poverty rate is above 75%*	Any schools whose poverty rate is above 35%	Schools must be served in rank order** by poverty rate district-wide, regardless of grade span
<i>Grade Span Grouping Using Poverty Rate for LEA as a whole</i>	Rank order by poverty rate APPLIES	All schools whose poverty rate is above 75% (regardless of grade span(s))*	Any schools within the prioritized grade span(s) whose poverty rate is above the poverty rate across the LEA	Schools must be served in rank order** by poverty rate within the prioritized grade span(s)
<i>Grade Span Grouping Using Poverty Rate for Prioritized Grade Span(s)</i>	Rank order by poverty rate APPLIES	All schools whose poverty rate is above 75% (regardless of grade span(s))*	Any schools within the prioritized grade span(s) whose poverty rate is above the poverty rate across applicable grade span(s)	Schools must be served in rank order** within the prioritized grade span(s)
<i>Grade Span Grouping and the 35% rule</i>	Rank order by poverty rate APPLIES	All schools whose poverty rate is above 75% (regardless of grade span(s))*	Any schools within the prioritized grade span(s) whose poverty rate is above 35%	Schools must be served in rank order** within the prioritized grade span(s)

**Served in rank order: Providing funds for a site via the PPA process. Sites must receive a PPA of the same amount or more as those ranked below them.

*****High School Priority:** In 1994, 2001, and 2015, Congress prioritized Title I funding to support high-poverty high schools before serving higher elementary schools to ensure College and Career Readiness

Note: A school site that is no longer eligible for Title I funds but was both eligible and served in the prior year may elect to use the Grandfather Clause to be served one additional year. It must still be ranked according to the method chosen by the LEA.