



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

December 22, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO TITLE I AND TITLE II STATE DIRECTORS

**Subject: Release of 2015 Census Data for Local Educational Agencies for Fiscal Year 2017
Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A Allocations**

Please find attached tables that show the 2015 population and poverty estimates for the local educational agencies (LEAs) in your State and the State-level estimates, which the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) released on December 14, 2016. These data are also available at: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html>.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will use the 2015 Census data to calculate fiscal year 2017 (school year (SY) 2017–2018) allocations under Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). ED will aggregate the poverty estimates at the State level to calculate the Title II, Part A allocations. I am providing these data to enable your State educational agency (SEA) to:

- Review the Census data, verify the accuracy of the school district boundary survey on which the data are based, and share the data with LEAs in your State;
- Estimate your LEAs' eligibility and allocations for the four Title I, Part A formulas; and
- Estimate your LEAs' Title II, Part A allocations.

Reviewing the Census data

The Census data estimates are based on a statistical model that incorporates information from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, administrative records taken from Federal income tax returns and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the most recent decennial Census, updates to population estimates that the Census Bureau may have completed since the last decennial census, data on Supplemental Security Income recipients, and economic data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Census Bureau has established a 90-day challenge period for reviewing these data and requests that corrections be submitted in cases where *non-statistical* errors can be documented. Such errors generally include errors that the Census Bureau may have made in: (1) processing input data or running the estimation models/programs; or (2) in preparing or processing information to define geographic boundaries (e.g., school district boundaries).

This challenge period ends on March 13, 2017. Based on the two factors outlined in the previous paragraph, if you believe that the Census estimates are incorrect, an SEA or LEA official may contact the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Branch at the Census Bureau for

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

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further information about how to challenge these data. To obtain information on the process an SEA or LEA needs to follow in order to challenge these data, please contact the SAIPE Branch at:

(301) 763-3193 or
E-mail: sehsd.saipe@census.gov

When sending an e-mail, please include your name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and organization affiliation. For more information and guidance concerning the Census Bureau's challenge procedures, please see the following web site:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html>

For more information about the data sources and the methodology used to prepare these data, please see the frequently asked questions fact sheet prepared by the Census Bureau available at:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/about/index.html>

The list of school districts used for the 2015 Census estimates is based on the SY 2015–2016 school district boundary survey conducted by the Census Bureau with the help of the district mapping coordinator in your State. Please note that the school districts on this list include only “regular” school districts that have geographic boundaries. The list does not include, for example, special school districts that a State recognizes as LEAs, such as charter schools or regional vocational education districts. These LEAs do not require “corrections” to the Census Bureau’s boundary survey data; rather, an SEA must adjust the SY 2017–2018 Title I, Part A LEA allocations that ED determines in order to accommodate new or special LEAs not included on the Census Bureau’s SY 2015–2016 list. An SEA must also adjust its Title II, Part A LEA allocations to include such special school districts.

Estimating LEAs’ eligibility and allocations for Title I, Part A

The table attached to this memorandum—the estimated number of related children ages 5-17 in families in poverty, the estimated total ages 5 to 17 population, and the estimated total resident population for each LEA—will enable you to determine which LEAs on this list are potentially eligible for funds under the Basic, Concentration, Targeted, and Education Finance Incentive Grants allocation formulas.¹ The Census poverty data do not include the other children counted in the formula, such as foster and neglected children.

This information will help you determine which LEAs are potentially eligible and enable LEAs to begin planning for the coming school year, particularly during the time prior to when ED is able to release preliminary SY 2017–2018 allocations. In addition, taking into account the hold-harmless guarantee and the required FY 2017 school improvement reservation in section 1003(a) of the ESEA can help eligible LEAs plan for the coming school year. Specifically, an LEA can generally

¹ To be eligible for a Basic Grant, an LEA must have at least 10 children counted under the Title I formula **and** the number of formula children must be greater than two percent of the LEA’s ages 5 to 17 population. To be eligible for a Concentration Grant, an LEA must generally have more than 6,500 formula children **or** the number of formula children must exceed 15 percent of the LEA’s ages 5 to 17 population. To qualify for Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants, an LEA must have at least 10 formula children **and** that number must be at least 5 percent of its ages 5 to 17 population.

expect that its SY 2017–2018 Title I, Part A allocation under each formula calculated by ED will be at least 85, 90, or 95 percent of the prior year’s amount less the percentage reduction an SEA must apply to all Title I LEAs to reserve funds for school improvement under section 1003(a) of the ESEA. For example, if an SEA is required to reserve seven percent of its FY 2017 Title I, Part A allocation for school improvement, an LEA can plan to receive a minimum of 78, 83, or 88 percent of its prior year’s allocation under each formula for which it remains eligible.

To further help LEAs plan, it would be helpful for an SEA to inform its LEAs as soon as possible if, after meeting the consultation requirements in section 1003A(a)(1) of the ESEA, the SEA intends to reserve up to three percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for Direct Student Services (DSS). See Step 4c on page 9 of ED’s ESEA fiscal guidance for information on reserving funds for DSS [available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaguidance160477.pdf>].

The attached table also shows which LEAs in your State have a total resident population under 20,000. This will enable you to explore whether to use the flexibility provided in the ESEA to use alternative poverty data approved by ED to redistribute LEA allocations determined by ED for those school districts that, based on the 2015 Census Bureau estimates, have a resident population under 20,000.

Estimating LEAs’ Title II, Part A allocations

The poverty and population data in the attached table also provide the data an SEA will need to calculate Title II, Part A allocations. Beginning with SY 2017–2018 allocations under Title II, Part A of the ESEA, there is no longer a “hold-harmless” provision governing the calculation of LEA allocations. An SEA, therefore, must distribute the portion of SY 2017–2018 Title II, Part A funds that are available to allocate to LEAs based solely on the following formula:

- 20 percent of the funds must be distributed to LEAs based on the Census Bureau’s 2015 ages 5 to 17 population data; and
- 80 percent of the funds must be distributed to LEAs based on the Census Bureau’s 2015 ages 5 to 17 poverty data.

I strongly encourage you to share this memorandum and attached table with your LEAs. If you have questions about SY 2017–2018 Title I, Part A or Title II, Part A allocations, please contact Todd Stephenson (todd.stephenson@ed.gov), Elizabeth Witt (Elizabeth.Witt@ed.gov), and your State contact ([OSS.\[State\]@ed.gov](mailto:OSS.[State]@ed.gov) (e.g., OSS.Utah@ed.gov)) in the Office of State Support.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Rooney
Deputy Director
Office of State Support

Attachments

cc: Chief State School Officers