

Federal Education Programs for Private School Students and Teachers

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Title I

Funds are generated by children who qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program, although the private school does not need to participate in the program. Data can be collected by the public school district through a survey or other means if the private school does not have a federal lunch program. The students generating funds reside in a participating public school Title I attendance area.

The proportional share of funds to serve eligible private school students is determined on the basis of all funds prior to any reserves or set asides by the public school district.

The funding is used to serve educationally needy children. Educational need is determined through multiple, educationally-related criteria.

Services can be in English/language arts, math, English as a second language, other cores subjects. Title I can also provide student and family support services and teacher professional development.

Private school principals and/or central office personnel (such as an assistant superintendent in a Catholic diocese) participate in timely and meaningful consultation with Title I Program Administrators prior to the beginning of the school year, in order that services to private school students can begin at the start of the school year. The law required specific topics for consultation, among them: the needs of the private school students and how they will be met by the program, how and where the services will be provided, if the services will be provided by the public school district directly or through a third party provider, and the funding available for the program services.

Private school officials will be asked to sign off on the consultation process through a written affirmation. Officials should only sign the form once all the required topics have been discussed, the private school officials have been able express their views, and a program with reasonable expectations of success has been designed and implemented.

Title II, A

Title II, A provides professional development services to public and private school teachers. Funds are generated on the basis of the number of private students attending schools located within the public school district, regardless of where the child resides, even if the child lives in another school, state, or country. The equitable share of funds is determined on the basis of all funds received by the public school district, regardless of how the district decides to use its portion of the funding.

Professional development for private school teachers must be designed through the consultation process and must meet the specific needs of the private school students. An offer by the public school district to participate in their professional development program is not a sufficient offer of equitable services. Title II, A also requires a written affirmation of consultation.

Title III, A

Title III, A funds are generated by counting the number of English Language Learners (ELL) and recent immigrants. Students attending private schools within the district generate funds, regardless of their residence (as with Title II, A).

School districts require an assessment of English language proficiency before considering a student an ELL. If the school does not have an assessment, the public school district can provide their assessment to be used, can administer the assessment, or can train the private school teachers to administer the assessment. Costs incurred by the public school district for assessments are taken out of the equitable funding that is generated by the ELL students.

Funds can be used for services and activities that benefit ELL and recent immigrants. Direct instruction can be provided, but funds can also be used for material, translation services, parent and family services, and other appropriate activities.

Title IV, A and Title IV, B

The Title IV, A is a new title under ESSA. Funds are generated to states and districts through the Title I count, although participants do not need to be in the Title I program – it is simply a method, through formula, to drive more funds to poorer school districts. Students attending private schools located within the district generate funds, regardless of where the children reside.

Funds can be used for a wide array of uses in the three focus areas of Title IV, A: a well-rounded education, technology, and school safety.

The Title IV, B is the 21st Century Learning Center Program. Students attending the private school located in the public school district generate funds, regardless of where the children reside. Funds are used for extended learning opportunities before, during, after school, and in the summer. Private school students receive equitable services and private school can apply to operate their own 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Taken from the "ESSA Toolkit" by Michelle L. Doyle Educational Consulting, LLC."