**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE**

**April 2024**

Title I, Part A Executive Summary

Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Education Agencies

# Introduction

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965’s (ESEA) Title I, Part A (Title IA) program. The purpose of the federal Title IA program is to provide all children an opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education and close educational achievement gaps. Title IA provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure all children meet challenging State academic standards.

# Subgrant Requirements

To receive Title IA funds, the LEA must complete a short list of requirements. Such requirements include submitting a program application to the Iowa Department of Education (Department) in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) each year and submitting quarterly reimbursement claims. For the requirements, please see the [Title IA Guidance](https://educate.iowa.gov/media/4404/download?inline) on the [ESSA Guidance and Allocations webpage](https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/essa/guidance-allocations).

NOTE: LEAs direct the Title IA funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. Title IA is designed to help students served by the program to achieve proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards. Only eligible public schools may receive these funds (ESEA § 1113).

# Allowable Activities

Schools that are eligible and receive Title IA funds must design and implement programs to support eligible Title IA students through a specific service delivery model.

## Service Delivery Models

There are two service delivery models that a Title IA school may use: Targeted Assistance and Schoolwide Programs. Both schoolwide and targeted assistance programs must use evidence-based strategies to improve student achievement and implement parental and family engagement activities.

### Targeted Assistance Programs

Title IA schools with less than the 40% schoolwide threshold or that choose not to operate a schoolwide program offer a "targeted assistance program," in which the school identifies students who are failing, or most at-risk of failing, to meet the State's challenging academic achievement standards. Targeted assistance schools design, in consultation with parents and school and LEA staff, an instructional program to meet the needs of those students.

### Schoolwide Programs

Title IA schools in which children from low-income families make up at least 40% of enrollment may use Title IA funds (along with other Federal, State, and local funds) to operate a "schoolwide program" to upgrade the instructional program for the whole school and serve all children in the school.

## Supplement Not Supplant

LEAs and schools must use Title IA funds to only supplement and not supplant their State, local, and Federal education funds. In general terms, this means that Title IA funds should add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) State, local, and Federal funds. ESSA’s method for testing compliance differs from prior law. LEAs must demonstrate the methodology they use to allocate State, local, and Federal funds to schools they provide to each Title IA school with all of the State, local, and Federal money it would receive if it did not participate in the Title IA program (ESEA § 1118(b)(2)). This should expand Title IA’s options.

NOTE: Title IA expenses must be allowable and must be in alignment with the purpose of the law.

## Required Set-Asides

Each LEA receiving more than $500,000 in Title IA funds must reserve at least 1% of its allocation for parent and family engagement activities.

All LEAs must also set-aside funds whether or not homeless students have been identified. LEAs must reserve funds as necessary to serve homeless children and youth attending Title IA and non-Title IA schools (ESEA § 1113(c)(3)(A). Services must be reasonable and necessary.

# Questions and Additional Guidance

For additional Title IA guidance and resources, see the Title IA heading on the Department’s [ESSA Guidance and Allocations page](https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/essa/guidance-allocations) and review the following documents:

* [Public Law 114-95](https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf)
* [Iowa's ESSA Plan](https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/essa) (approved May 2018)
* [ESSA Non-Regulatory Guidance Fiscal and Equitable Services](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2023/05/Title-I-ES-guidance-revised-5-2023.pdf) (May, 17, 2023)
* [Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grants Guidance](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf)
* [Serving Homeless Students under Title I, Part A](https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/titlei.pdf)
* [Letter regarding Title I, Part A reservation to serve homeless](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/letterforessatitleialeahomelesssetaside.pdf) students (July 30, 2018)
* [Non-Regulatory Guidance Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidanceupdated082718.docx) - Updated August 2018