

Waivers for a School-Wide Title I Program

Overview School-Wide Program

The purpose of school-wide Title I program is to improve the entire educational program in a Title I school, which should result in improving the academic achievement of all students, particularly the lowest-achieving students. The goal of such a program is to assist the lowest-achieving students to demonstrate proficiency on academic achievement standards. Under the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) § 1114(a)(1), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a school may operate a school-wide program if it meets any of the following criteria

- A Title I school with 40 percent or more of its students living in poverty, regardless of the grades it serves, or
- A Title I school that receives a waiver from the state education agency (SEA) to operate a school-wide program without meeting the 40 percent poverty threshold.

ESSA allows states to grant waivers to implement school-wide Title I programs in schools with poverty levels below 40 percent. ESSA § 1114(a)(1)(B) grants this authority to states but requires that states establish a process for the review and approval of waiver requests that ensures that a school-wide program will best meet the needs of students in improving academic achievement.

Benefits of School-Wide Program

A school that operates a school-wide program can take advantage of numerous benefits including:

- Serving all students.
 - A school operating a school-wide program does not need to identify particular students as eligible to participate (ESEA § 1114(a)(2)(A)(i)).
- Providing services that need not be supplemental.
 - A school operating a school-wide program does not need to provide specific services that supplement the services participating students would otherwise receive (ESEA § 1114(a)(2)(A)(ii)).

Requirements for Waivers of School-Wide Wavier

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) interested in implementing a School-Wide Title I program in a school that does not meet the 40 percent threshold must:

- Upload a waiver request letter, on LEA letterhead and signed by the director of schools, to the *LEA Document Library* in [ePlan.tn.gov](https://eplan.tn.gov) by April 15 of each year (*Respective Funding Year, Consolidated Funding Application Documents*);
- Complete the *Title I School-Wide Program Waiver Request* and upload it to the *LEA Document Library* in ePlan (*Respective Funding Year, Consolidated Funding Application Documents*); and
- Send an email to [Debbie Thompson \(Deborah.Thompson@tn.gov\)](mailto:Debbie.Thompson@tn.gov) confirming the submission of a waiver request when both documents are successfully uploaded in ePlan.

All waiver requests must be submitted by **April 15** to be considered for the upcoming school year.