

ESEA Director's Training Curriculum

2.4 Comparability—A Fiscal Test

Comparability is the second of the Title I three fiscal tests. It is required **annually** to ensure federal funds are used to supplement Title I schools and that Title I schools receive state and local funds that are "at least comparable" to the level of state and local funding received by non-Title I schools [ESEA § 1118(c)].

Methods to Demonstrate Comparability Include:

- Student-instructional staff ratio (Tennessee's default method)
- Per-pupil expenditures: an alternative method that looks directly at allocation of state and local education funds per student

Dates of Importance & Deadlines:

- **Oct. 5:** Comparability Tool is available in ePlan
- **Nov. 13:** Due date for completing the comparability tool in ePlan (LEA Authorized Representative Approved)
- **Dec. 1:** If applicable, letter is due in ePlan stating adjustments are completed.

Available Resources:

- [Divisional Coordinators](#)
- Slide decks and webinar(s) in [ePlan.tn.gov](https://eplan.tn.gov) > [TDOE Resources](#) > Federal Programs Professional Development > Federal Programs Webinar Series > ESEA Title I, Part A Comparability
 - ESEA Title I, Part A Comparability Part 1: Methods Overview
[Microsoft Stream Webinar Link](#) | [Slide Deck Link](#)
 - ESEA Title I, Part A Comparability Part 2: An Improved Vision for Comparability
[Microsoft Stream Webinar Link](#) | [Slide Deck Link](#)
- [Title I Comparability Reporting Guide 2020-21](#)