

RISEING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Title I Eligibility: Reaching New Summits Through Exceptions

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Agenda

- Title I, Part A Exception
- TISA's Potential Impact
- Making the Connection
- Oversight Considerations
- Closing

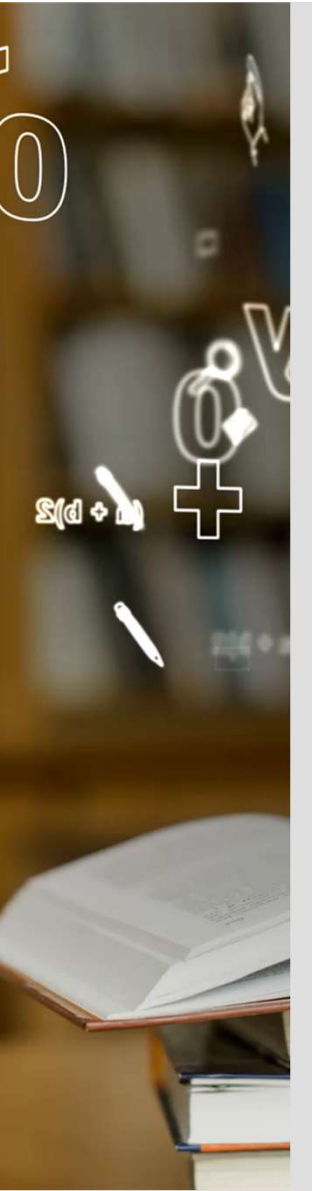


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Title I, Part A Exception



Title I, Part A: General Rule

General Rule:

Local educational agencies (LEAs) must rank eligible school attendance areas by poverty and serve schools in rank order when allocating Title I funds.

The Exception:

An LEA may skip a higher-poverty eligible school and serve a lower-poverty school if the higher-poverty school receives:

- Supplemental State or local funds; and
- Services that are at least comparable to those that would be provided with Title I funds.

What is "Skipping"?

An LEA may **elect not to serve** an otherwise eligible higher-poverty school if all required conditions are met.

Skipping and Related Exception

ESEA § 1113(b)(1)(D)



Why Skip a School?

Purpose

- Provides funding flexibility
- Prevents duplication of resources while maintaining equity.
- Supports strategic use of federal, state, and local resources

Private School Equitable Services Requirements

LEAs must:

- Continue providing equitable services to eligible private school students residing in the skipped attendance area.
- Include low-income private school students from the skipped attendance area when calculating the proportional share.
- Consult with private school officials regarding services.



Requirements to Skip a School

All Conditions Must Be Met:

- ✓ Schools with a 75 percent or more low-income percentage must be served, **no skipping**.
- ✓ School meets ESEA §1118(c) comparability requirements.
- ✓ School receives supplemental State or local funds.
- ✓ Supplemental funds support programs that meet the intent and purposes of Title I.
- ✓ Supplemental funds equal or exceed the amount the school would have received under Title I.

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TISA's Potential Impact on Your LEA's Title I Spiral

Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement Act

TISA includes:

- Base funding amount provided for every public-school student;
- Weighted funding to address individual student needs like those students who may be low income or attend schools with concentrated poverty, English Learners, students with disabilities, have characteristics of dyslexia, or live in a sparse or small community;
- Direct funding intended to support students in key priority areas like early literacy, career and technical education (CTE) programming, and postsecondary readiness; and
- Outcomes funding based on student achievement to empower districts and schools to help all students reach their full potential.



Individual Needs - Definitions

- **Economically Disadvantaged:** Current definition – direct certification, homeless, migrant, runaway and foster
- **Concentrated Poverty:** Students attending a Title I eligible school
- **Small:** District with 1,000 or fewer students
- **Sparse:** District with 25 or fewer students per square mile
- **Unique Learning Needs (ULN):** Current 10 special education options of service, students with characteristics of dyslexia and English learners



Economically Disadvantaged and Medicaid

- TDOE applied to participate in the 2023-24 Medicaid Demonstration Project
- Application was approved in January 2023
- Provides opportunities for districts to directly certify additional students for free meals who meet eligibility requirements and are not already direct certified through other programs such as SNAP or TANF
 - Medicaid will also be used for direct certification of reduced-price meals
 - Current software contract for School Nutrition allows the state to conduct matches for Medicaid and all direct certification programs
- Medicaid will **not** be used to identify students as economically disadvantaged this year

Breaking it Down: Direct Funding

TISA will provide districts additional funds to:

- Enhance literacy supports for K-3 students- \$500 per student
- Offer literacy tutoring to students who need more help- \$500 per student
- Strengthen and expand high-value career and technical education offerings- \$5,000 - \$5,700 depending on level of program and student progression in coursework through the program
- Pay for two administrations of a post-secondary assessment- \$86
- Provide funds for charter school facilities- per student amount to be determined annually; initially replaced the charter school facilities grant (485.62 per charter school ADM in FY27)

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Breaking It Down: Direct Funding Visual

TISA provides districts additional funds to:

Enhance literacy supports for K-3 students



\$500 per K-3 student



292,000 students

Offer literacy tutoring to students who need more help



\$500 per student



41,000 students

Strengthen and expand high-value career and technical education offerings



\$5,000 - \$5,700 per CTE ADM



55,000 students

Pay for two administrations of a post-secondary assessment.



\$43 per student



143,000 students

Provide supports for charter schools



\$485.62 per student



45,000 students

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Making the Connection

Example: Elementary School Demographics

Pencil Point Elementary and Crayon Creek Elementary are two schools serving similar student populations.

Elementary Schools		
	Pencil Point Elementary	Crayon Creek Elementary
Grade Span	K-4	K-4
Enrollment	420 students	435 students
Poverty	58%	81%
ELL	12%	11%
SWD	14%	15%

Example: Elementary School Direct Funding

Pencil Point Elementary		
Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	110 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	90 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	0 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	0 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$100,000	

Crayon Creek Elementary		
Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	110 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	120 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	0 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	0 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$115,000	

Example: School Comparisons

Elementary Schools		
	Pencil Point Elementary	Crayon Creek Elementary
Grade Span	K-4	K-4
Enrollment	420 students	435 students
Poverty	58%	81%
TISA Direct Funding Amount	\$100,000	\$115,000

Crayon Creek Elementary was not eligible to be skipped because its poverty rate was above 75%, requiring the school to be served in the Title I funding spiral.

Example: Middle School Demographics

Tater Tot Middle School and Macaroni Masterpiece Middle School are two schools serving similar student populations.

Middle Schools		
	Tater Tot	Macaroni Masterpiece
Grade Span	6-8	6-8
Enrollment	720 students	655 students
Poverty	68%	63%
ELL	13%	11%
SWD	12%	15%

Example: Middle School Direct Funding

Tater Tot

Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	0 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	0 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	60 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	0 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$300,000	

Macaroni Masterpiece

Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	0 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	0 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	0 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	0 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$0	

Example: Middle School Comparisons

Middle Schools		
	Tator Tot	Macaroni Masterpiece
Grade Span	6-8	6-8
Enrollment	720 students	655 students
Poverty	68%	63%
TISA Direct Funding Amount	\$300,000	\$0

Tator Tot Middle School qualifies to be skipped based on the additional funding received through TISA.

Example: High School Demographics

Detention Avoidance and Homework Resistance High School are two schools serving similar student populations.

High Schools		
	Detention Avoidance	Homework Resistance
Grade Span	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	1,250 students	1,280 students
Poverty	57%	52%
ELL	10%	8%
SWD	11%	15%

Example: High School Direct Funding

Detention Avoidance

Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	0 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	0 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	160 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	50 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$802,150	

Homework Resistance

Funding (direct)	Amount	Value
K – 3 rd Grade Student	\$500	0 students
4 th Grade Tutoring	\$500	0 students
CCTE (\$5000-\$5700)	\$5,000	120 students
Post-Secondary Assessment	\$43	80 students
Charter School Supports	\$485.62	0 students
Total Direct Funding	\$603,440	

Example: High School Comparisons

High Schools		
	Detention Avoidance	Homework Resistance
Grade Span	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	1,250 students	1,280 students
Poverty	57%	52%
TISA Direct Funding Amount	\$802,150	\$603,440

Detention Avoidance qualifies to be skipped based on the additional funding received through TISA.

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Oversight Considerations

Oversight Consideration

Documentation Checklist

- ✓ Poverty rankings (*Captured in the CFA*)
- ✓ School eligibility determinations (*Captured in the CFA*)
- ✓ State/local funding sources (*Uploaded in the CFA*)
- ✓ Comparable services analysis (*Capture in the Letter update to CFA*)

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Evidence: CFA, School Eligibility page

Poverty Rankings

- Captured in the CFA, School Eligibility Page

School Eligibility Determinations

- Capture on the School Eligibility Page



Verification: State and Local Funds

WEIGHTS	Weight	Students/Services	Funding
Economically Disadvantaged (Hold Harmless applied)	25%	1,628.78	\$ 3,066,173.72
Concentrated Poverty	5%	5,398.09	\$ 2,032,379.74

DIRECT					
K-3 Literacy	\$	500.00	1,385.61		\$ 692,806.82
4th Grade Supports	\$	500.00	181.00		\$ 90,500.00
CTE		Varies	923.55		\$ 4,592,102.39
Post-Secondary Assessment (per test	\$	43.00	993.98		\$ 42,741.20
Charter	\$	485.62	-		\$ -

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Verification of Spiral

Going forward, there will be one opportunity to review and make a change to your spiral.

- The Title I eligible schools identified in the CFA determine the concentrated poverty allocation for your LEA (5% of base, or \$376.50 per ADM)
- After initial CFA is approved, a list of Title I eligible schools will be pulled from ePlan and sent to LEAs
- State will compare with prior year list and flag any schools that came off the list



Verification of Spiral (continued)

- Sent to Director of Schools, Federal Programs Director and Finance Director
- There will be a window during which you may reach out to the Federal Programs and Oversight team to request a change
- Once a change is made, that will be the final list of Title I eligible schools that will be used in determining TISA allocations for concentrated poverty for the upcoming year



CFA: Identifying and Ranking Schools

Page

To justify skipping an eligible school, the LEA must demonstrate that the school receives supplemental, non-federal resources that are comparable to Title I services.

Include:

- School(s) being skipped
- Non-federal supplemental funding source(s)
- Supplemental funding amount by school
- Title I-like services supported by the funds

Key Requirement: The supplemental funding provided to each skipped school must be equal to or greater than the Title I allocation the school would have received through the final funding spiral.

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Closing

Key Takeaways

- Rank and serve remains the general rule.
- Skipping is a statutory exception.
- Schools with a 75 percent or more low-income percentage must be served, **no skipping**.
- All federal requirements must be met and documented.
- Equitable services requirements continue for eligible private school students.
- LEAs may reduce, rather than eliminate, a Title I allocation when supplemental funding is less than the Title I amount.



Resources

U.S Department of Education Guidance

- [Within-district-allocations-FINAL.pdf](#)

2026-27 TISA Guide

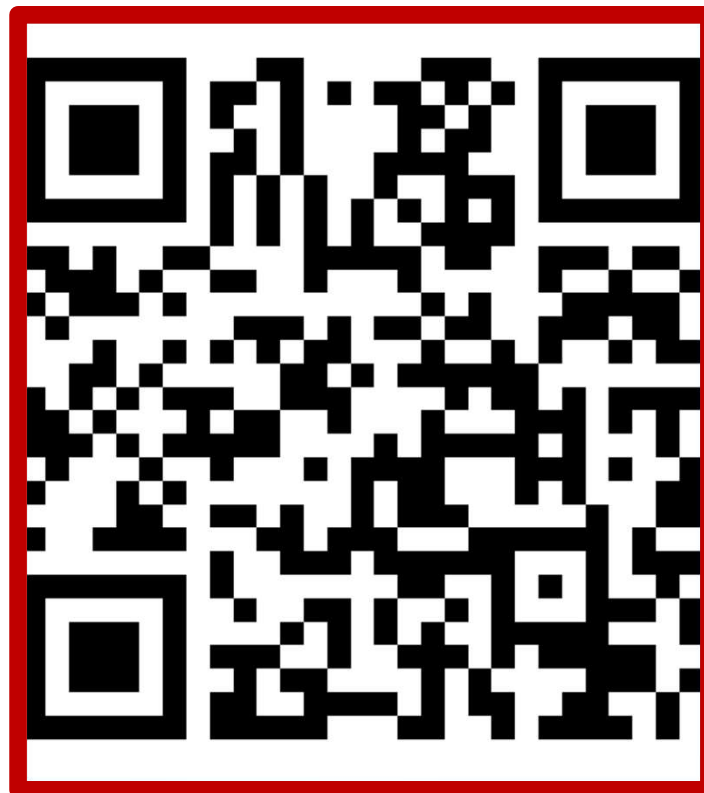
- [2026-27 TISA Guide](#)



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Questions

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