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 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Trailside Insights from Census Data

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Agenda

- **What is SAIPE data**
- **How ED uses SAIPE data**
- **Data Sources for SAIPE**
- **LEA Actions That Support Reliable Poverty Estimates**
- **U.S. Census Bureau Resources**



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U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

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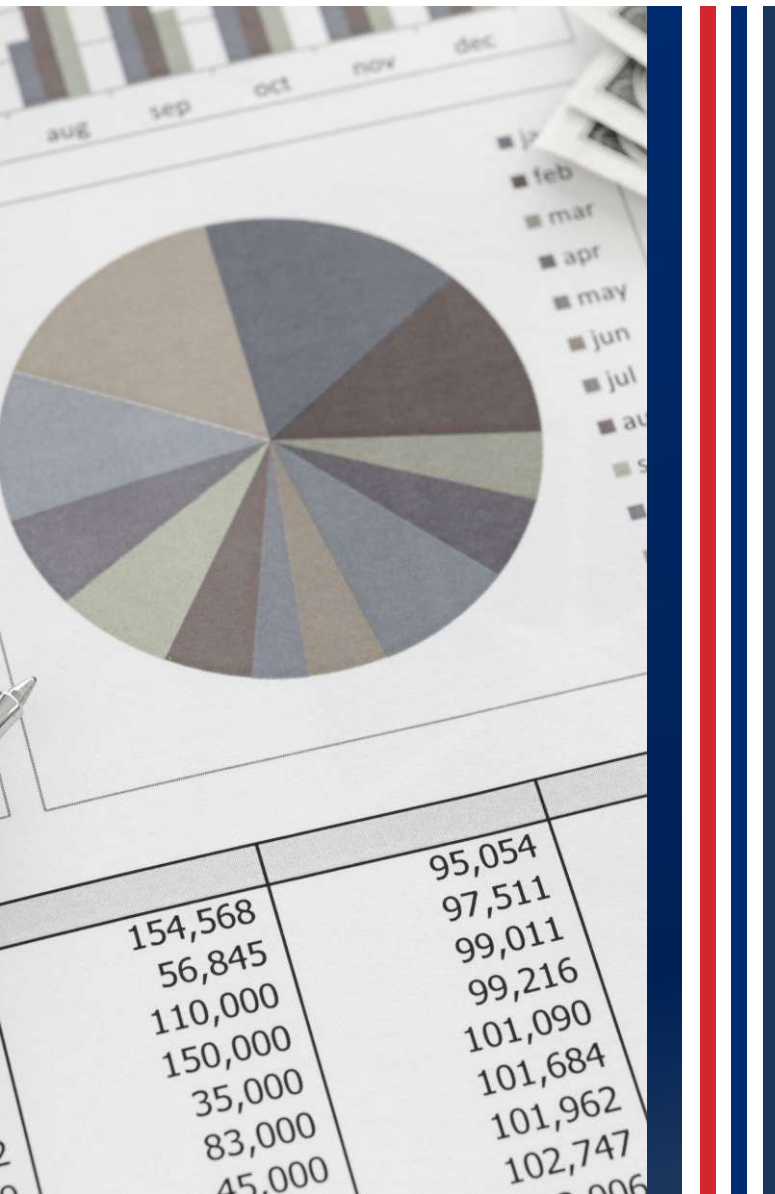
The SAIPE program provides annual estimates of income and poverty statistics for all school districts, counties, and states.



The main objective of this program is to provide estimates of income and poverty for the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions.



In addition to these federal programs, state and local programs use the income and poverty estimates for distributing funds and managing programs.



SAIPE Program Provides the Following Estimates:

The U.S. Census Bureau's SAIPE program provides annual estimates of:

- Children ages 5-17 living in poverty
- School-age population
- Poverty rates by school district, county, and state
- Income and poverty statistics used for federal funding decisions

Why SAIPE Matters: Supports Equitable Funding

Benefits:

- Annual updates between decennial censuses
- Consistent methodology nationwide
- Reliable estimates for every school district
- Supports federal education funding decisions



Implications for Tennessee LEAs

Why LEAs Should Monitor SAIPE Data:

- Influences future Title I allocations
- Reflects changes in student poverty
- Supports needs assessment activities
- May impact school eligibility and ranking
- Provides data for grant applications and planning



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How the U.S. Department of Education uses SAIPE Data

How ED Uses SAIPE Data

Title I, Part A Allocations

The U.S. Department of Education uses SAIPE estimates to calculate:

- Basic Grants
- Concentration Grants
- Targeted Grants
- Education Finance Incentive Grants (EFIG)



From Census Data to Title I Dollars



Census Bureau (SAIPE Data)



Child Poverty Estimates



U.S. Department of Education



Title I Allocation Formulas



State Education Agencies



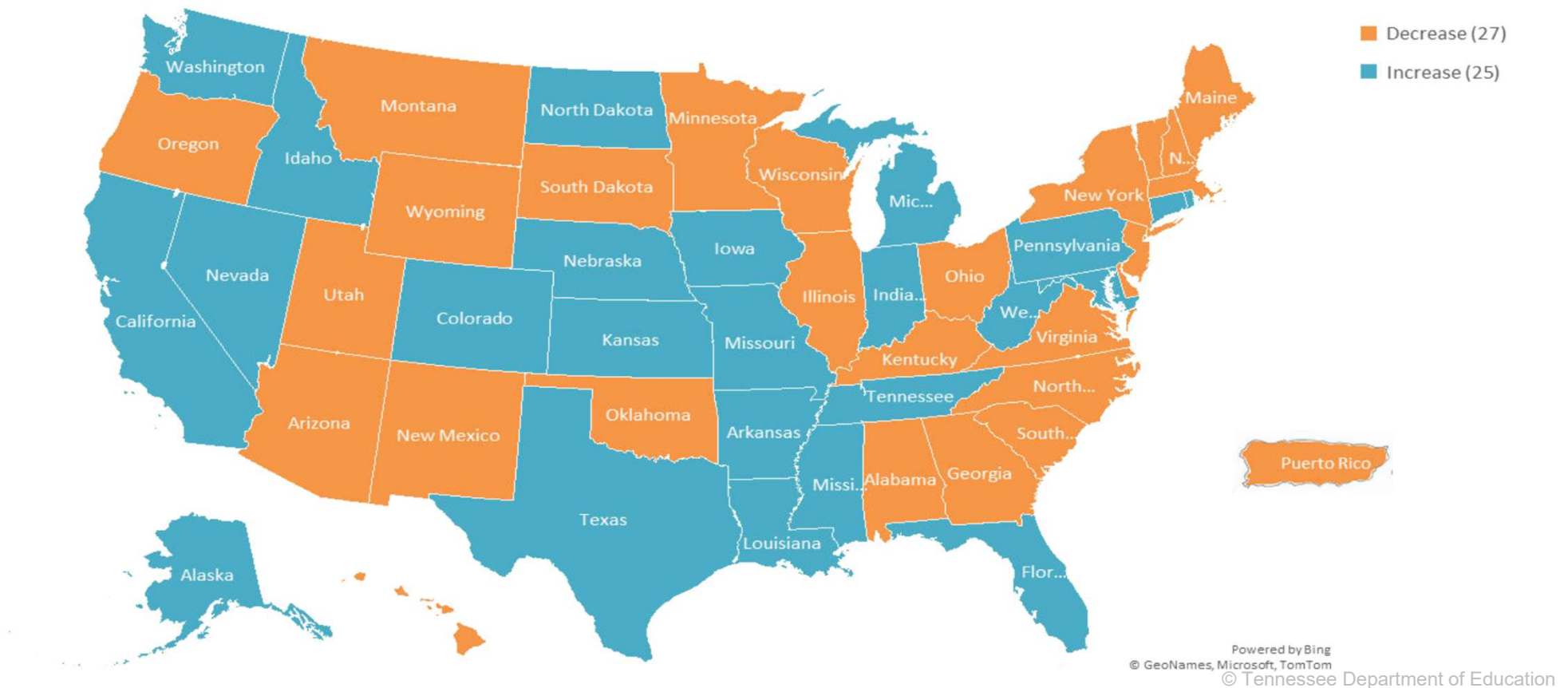
Local Education Agencies (LEAs)



Students with Greatest Needs



2024 Census poverty shares vs. 2023 Census poverty shares



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Data Sources for SAIPE

Data Sources Behind SAIPE

SAIPE Combines Multiple Data Sources:

- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Federal tax return data
- SNAP participation data
- Decennial Census population counts
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) data
- Economic indicators



The American Community Survey, Part 1

What It Provides

- The American Community Survey (ACS) is the Census Bureau's ongoing survey that collects detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information from households across the U.S.

How SAIPE Uses ACS

- Estimates household income levels
- Measures poverty status
- Provides demographic characteristics
- Supplies baseline data for national and local poverty estimates



The American Community Survey, Part 2

Why It Matters

ACS serves as the foundation for understanding economic conditions within communities and helps SAIPE estimate child poverty at the district level.

The image shows the front cover of the American Community Survey questionnaire booklet. At the top right, the number '131 90012' is printed. The title 'The American Community Survey' is prominently displayed. Below the title, a green box contains the text: 'This booklet shows the content of the American Community Survey questionnaire.' The 'Start Here' section provides instructions on how to respond, either online at <https://respond.census.gov/acs> or by completing the form and mailing it back. It also states that a response is required by law. A section titled 'If you need help or have questions about completing this form' provides contact information for the U.S. Census Bureau. The bottom right corner includes the form number 'ACS-1 (INFO)(2020)' and the date 'SEP 13, 2020'. A large 'ORIGINAL COPY' watermark is visible across the center of the page.

Federal Tax Return Data

What It Provides

- Federal tax return information offers indicators of income and family composition at local geographic levels.

How SAIPE Uses Tax Data

- Identifies low-income households
- Tracks income trends
- Helps estimate the number of children in poverty
- Enhances accuracy at small geographic levels

Why It Matters

Tax data provides annual administrative records that supplement survey responses and improve the precision of poverty estimates.

SNAP Participation Data

What It Provides

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation data identifies households receiving food assistance benefits.

How SAIPE Uses Tax Data

- Serves as an indicator of economic need
- Helps identify concentrations of poverty
- Supports annual updates to poverty estimates

Why It Matters

Families eligible for SNAP often have incomes below or near poverty thresholds, making SNAP participation a strong indicator of economic disadvantage



The Decennial Census, Part 1

What It Provides

The Decennial Census counts every person living in the United States and provides official population totals.

How SAIPE Uses Census Counts

- Establishes population benchmarks
- Provides school-age population estimates
- Supports geographic boundary definitions
- Ensures consistency across states and districts



The Decennial Census, Part 2

Why It Matters

Accurate population counts are essential because Title I formulas use both poverty counts and school-age population figures.

The image shows a sample of the 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire form. At the top, it says "2020 Census" and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau". It includes a barcode and the text "This is the official questionnaire for this address. It is quick and easy to respond, and your answers are protected by law." Below this, it says "Para completar el cuestionario en español, dele la vuelta y complete el lado verde." and "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY". The form is divided into sections. Section 1 asks "How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?" and provides a box for the number of people. Section 2 asks "Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you did not include in Question 1?" and lists categories like children, relatives, and nonrelatives. Section 3 asks "Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark 'X' ONE box — owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?" and lists categories like owned, rented, and occupied without payment of rent. Section 4 asks "What is your telephone number?" and provides a box for the number. The form also includes a "Start here OR go online at my2020census.gov to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire." and a "Use a blue or black pen." instruction.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) data

What It Provides

- SSI data identifies individuals and families receiving federal income assistance due to age, disability, or limited income and resources.

How SAIPE Uses SSI Data

- Helps identify economically vulnerable populations
- Supplements poverty measurement models
- Improves estimates in areas with limited survey data

Why It Matters

- SSI participation provides another indicator of financial need and supports more accurate local poverty estimates.



Economic Indicators

What They Include

SAIPE incorporates economic data from sources such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis and other federal agencies.

How SAIPE Uses

- Economic Indicators measure local economic conditions
- Captures employment and income trends
- Reflects economic growth or decline
- Adjusts poverty estimates based on changing conditions

Why It Matters

Economic conditions can change more quickly than census surveys. These indicators help SAIPE produce timely annual estimates



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LEA Actions That Support Reliable Poverty Estimates

LEA Actions: Maintain Accurate Records

Maintain Accurate Student Enrollment Records

- Regularly review enrollment and withdrawal data.
- Verify student demographic information.
- Ensure homeless, foster, migratory, and economically disadvantaged student records are current.



LEA Actions: Census Participation

Promote Census Participation

- Encourage families to participate in the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS).
- Partner with community organizations to increase awareness.
- Share multilingual outreach materials.



LEA Actions: Improve Quality

Improve Program Data Quality

- Verify direct certification records.
- Maintain accurate SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid matching data.
- Conduct regular data validation checks.



LEA Actions: LEA Boundary

Review LEA Boundary Information

- Ensure LEAs are accurately reported.
- Promptly report any boundary changes to appropriate agencies.
- Participate in Census Bureau review opportunities when available.



LEA Actions: Strengthen Collaboration

Strengthen Interagency Collaboration

- Coordinate with local government agencies.
- Collaborate with social service organizations.
- Share data quality best practices across departments.



LEA Actions: Use Processes

Use Data Monitoring and Validation Processes

- Conduct periodic audits of student information systems.
- Compare local trends with state and federal reports.
- Investigate significant changes in poverty counts or enrollment figures.



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Census Bureau Table Talk and Resources

SAIPE Data Table Talk

Discussion Prompts

- How does the poverty data align with what you see in your communities?
- What factors may contribute to changes in poverty rates over time?
- How might shifts in SAIPE data affect Title I allocations and local planning?
- What additional data would help provide better context?



U.S. Census Resources

U.S. Census Bureau SAIPE Program

- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

SAIPE School District Estimates

- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/data/datasets.html>

NCES District Search

- <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/>



Thank You

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