



A Union of Professionals

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Since 1965, as part of its War on Poverty, the federal government has, through Title I of ESEA, acknowledged the need to invest federal funds in schools serving students in poverty.

Today, Title I is the largest federal investment in preK-12 education, receiving nearly \$16 billion in fiscal year 2019. The money is allocated through four different formulas weighting concentrations of poverty and population. Twenty-four million students at more than two thirds of all public elementary schools receive extra academic support under Title I.

Title I funds can support a variety of programs and services to support low income students learning, such as teachers and paraprofessionals for extra instruction in reading and mathematics, guidance counselors, community school coordinators, library books and librarians, nurses, preschool, after-school and extended day or year programs.

There are two types of Title I programs.

Schoolwide programs are allowed if the percentage of low-income students served by a school is at least 40 percent. In schoolwide programs, Title I funds may be used to improve the performance of all students in a school. For example, funds might be used to provide professional development to all of a school's teachers, upgrade instructional technology, or implement new curricula.

The other type of Title I service model is the targeted assistance school program, under which Title I-funded services are targeted to eligible children. Title I services must also be provided to eligible private school children who live in the public school attendance area.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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