

**Department of Public Instruction  
Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept 201  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440**

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### Title I Eligibility Process

Each year, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction needs to determine eligibility status for Title I funding for every North Dakota school district for the subsequent school year. This typically occurs in February.

Eligibility for a Title I grant requires a district to have a minimum formula count of TEN. The formula count is a weighted unit consisting of 15.5% of the census poor count, 15.5% of the foster child count, 46% of the eligible free meal count, and 23% of the eligible reduced meal count.

1. The census poor count is the count of children ages 5-17 who were reported below poverty on the updated federal census.
2. The foster child count is a count of children ages 5-17 living in foster homes during October 2009.
3. The free meal count is a count of children eligible for free meals.
4. The reduced meal count is a count of children eligible for reduced meal prices. A child must have an approved free or reduced meal application on file at their school district office from October 2009 to be counted. If your total weighted unit drops below ten, the district does not meet the eligibility requirement and your subsequent year's Title I grant would be zero.

In February 2010, the state Title I office will send correspondence to all Title I authorized representatives informing them of the status of their aggregate units and whether or not they are eligible for Title I funding for the 2010-2011 school year. Each district will receive a chart comparing last year's aggregate units to the current totals. If the aggregate units increase from the prior year, the allocation will probably increase. If the aggregate units go down, the allocation will most likely also decrease. If the numbers do not change much, the allocation will most likely remain steady.

District: Sample					
	<b>Census (15.5%)</b>	<b>Free Meals (46%)</b>	<b>Reduced Meals (23%)</b>	<b>Foster (15.5%)</b>	<b>Aggregate Units</b>
2008 Data	782	1496	691	64	978.220
2009 Data	933	1724	720	64	1113.175

If the aggregate units decreased and you receive a decrease in Title I funding for the 2010-2011 school year, there are provisions in place to lessen the impact. The "hold harmless" provision guarantees that an eligible school district receives, at a minimum, a certain percentage of last year's Title I allocation. However, the hold harmless provision is calculated individually for each of the four categories.

In order to benefit from the hold harmless provision, your district must be eligible for each category separately.

95% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 30% and higher poverty

90% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 15% to 30% poverty

85% Hold Harmless – LEAs with 0% to 15% poverty

The department will then generate **estimated** federal Title allocations. We hope to have these amounts available by March 2010.

The department will post **estimated** federal Title allocations for school districts on our website. To access this allocation information, log on to [www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/allocap.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/allocap.shtm). No written correspondence will be mailed to school districts.

The department will generate and post **final** federal Title allocations when we receive final amounts from the U.S. Department of Education. This typically occurs in May.