

North Dakota State Title I Academic Achievement Award Program Guidance on the Use of Funds

Overview:

The North Dakota State Title I Academic Achievement Award is part of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act, signed into law in January 2002. The NCLB law allows each state to recognize those schools that have made the greatest gains in closing the achievement gap. This recognition program, set by each state's individual criteria, must include recognition of Title I schools using data from the state assessment.

Federal guidelines also allow state departments to provide financial awards to recipients.

Use of Funds:

The funds under the Title I State Academic Achievement Awards program may be used for any educationally-related cost or expenditure. Whether a school has a targeted assistance program or a schoolwide program is irrelevant. These funds may be used to benefit all students or staff in the school building. These funds may not be used district-wide. These funds must be utilized within the school that is being recognized.

Fiscal Notes - How to Claim Funds:

Recipients of this award must maintain a separate account for tracking the funding and expenditures of this program. These funds may not be combined with your school's regular Title I, Part A funds or any other federal program funds. This account must be maintained in the business records of the school.

These funds must be claimed on a reimbursement basis. After a school has spent the funds, you may request to be reimbursed for funding by use of SFN14660 Request for Funds form. This reimbursement should be sent to the State Title I office to receive payment.

Suggestions for the Use of Funds:

The following are some suggested uses for a Title I Academic Achievement Award:

- The Title I program improvement website has many suggestions on using funds to increase the academic achievement of the school. These suggestions can be found on the Title I Program Improvement website at: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/progress/ideas.pdf>.
- The Department of Public Instruction website has guidance on the allowable uses of Title I, Title II, Title IV, and Title V funds. Any of the allowable activities presented within these four programs would be allowable under this program. These suggestions can be accessed on the Department of Public Instruction website at: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/achieve/guidance.pdf>.
- You may choose to use your funds to do a school recognition program. These funds can be used to recognize staff for their efforts and dedication in meeting individual student needs.

These suggestions are certainly not inclusive of all ideas that would be allowable. As stated, the funds may be used for any educationally-related activity or cost.

Questions:

Any questions or concerns can be addressed to:

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