

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

TITLE I FAST FACT SERIES

Issue: Allowable Uses of Funds During the Title I Schoolwide Planning Year

Purpose of Title I

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to state and local education agencies to meet the needs of at-risk students. The goal of Title I is to provide instructional services and activities which support students in meeting the state's challenging performance standards.

Comparing Targeted Assistance and Schoolwide

No Child Left Behind sets ambitious goals for raising student achievement in mathematics and reading, so whether a school operates as a targeted assistance or a schoolwide program, the focus is on raising student achievement.

A targeted assistance school uses Title I funds to support programs for eligible children, i.e., children who are failing or at risk of failing to meet the state's standards.

A schoolwide program uses its Title I allocation to upgrade the entire educational program of the school in order to raise academic achievement for ALL students at the school. The students and all the teachers at the school use Title I funds to improve the school's entire academic program.

Transitioning to a Schoolwide Program

A minimum of one year of planning is required before schools are allowed to operate a Title I schoolwide program. During the planning year, all staff will participate in professional development and ultimately, develop a schoolwide plan.

A Title I targeted assistance school seeking to establish a schoolwide program must spend a full year conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and developing a schoolwide plan. Until that year is completed, the school may not take advantage of the flexibility available to schoolwide programs.

Schools in the schoolwide planning year are still required to operate and utilize its funding as a Title I targeted assistance program; however, there is some flexibility with regard to funding for professional development in the schoolwide planning year.

Spending Title I Funds During the Schoolwide Planning Year

Below is a list of possible ways that schools in a schoolwide planning year could spend Title I funds.

- All instructional aides and paraprofessionals in a schoolwide program need to meet the NCLB regulations and hold a Title I paraprofessional certificate of completion. Financial assistance may be given to ensure they are highly qualified.
- Paying all teachers stipends for participating in ongoing professional development beyond contract time to support schoolwide planning.
- Hiring a professional development technical assistance provider to guide schoolwide study groups, monitor instructional changes, and assist in data analysis with regard to schoolwide planning.
- Purchasing professional literature to support professional development and study groups for schoolwide planning.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact:

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