

Title I Programs



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Title I Programs

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What are Title I Programs?

The purpose of Title I-*Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged* of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (signed into law on December 10, 2015, replacing No Child Left Behind) is to “*provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps*”.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Title I Program provides technical assistance, service and support to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools to help ensure every child has access to an excellent education.

How much money does the state receive?

FY18 Total Title I Award:	\$347,779,048
FY18 Total Amount Allocated to LEAs*:	\$316,135,482.91

*as of 1/18/2018

How are funds distributed to schools?

- Funds are distributed on a formula basis to eligible Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)
- The formula is largely driven by United States Census population and poverty data for traditional LEAs and AzEDS enrollment and poverty data for charter LEAs
- The project/budget term is 15 months: July 1 through September 30
- LEAs complete a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and grant fiscal application to access their funds

What are the funds used for?

- LEAs have defined flexibility to use their funds to help ensure all their children receive a high-quality education, and to close the achievement gap between children meeting the challenging State academic standards and those children who are not meeting such standards. Priority is given to support schools within the LEA that have the highest concentrations of students meeting poverty criteria, and students identified as failing or most at risk of failing.
- School-based programs may be *Schoolwide* or *Targeted Assistance*
- Activities could include:
 - Developing and implementing a well-rounded program of instruction to meet the academic needs of all students
 - Identifying students who may be at risk for academic failure
 - Providing additional educational assistance to individual students the LEA or school determines need help in meeting the challenging State academic standards
 - Identifying and implementing instructional and other strategies intended to strengthen academic programs and improve school conditions for student learning

How many FTEs at ADE are dedicated to overseeing Title I programs?

- There are currently 17.05 FTE assigned to support the implementation and oversight of Title I

How are they funded and what are their duties?

- All are currently funded by Title I, Part A funds reserved for SEA administration
- *Primary duties include:*
 - Providing technical assistance, service, professional learning and support to LEAs and schools to assist with implementing effective Title I programs and services
 - Engaging in performance management and collaborative monitoring activities to ensure resources are expended appropriately and effectively
 - Collaborating with internal program areas and external partners


What happened with the misallocation of funds?

FY2013-14 Title I-A Single Audit Finding


- ADE received an FY14 Audit finding regarding earmarking for school improvement activities via the School Improvement Fund Set-Aside. Auditors identified 23 LEAs with calculation errors, for a total questioned value of \$435,831. It was understood that this issue would have ramifications due to the “roll forward” to future year calculation files
- There were, however, additional errors identified in the Title I-A allocation calculations process
- All LEAs were impacted to varying degrees

Title I, Part A Allocations Process


USED sends Title I funding under four Title I grant components (Basic, Concentration, Targeted, and Education Finance Incentive Grants) to SEAs for census-districts only




SEAs must adjust allocations to accommodate non-census-LEAs



SEAs must ensure no LEA is seeing an unmanageable year-over-year reduction in funding (this is known as the “hold harmless” provision)



SEAs must “set aside” funding for School Improvement and Administration activities



SEAs must apply adjustments for “maintenance of effort” issues and any applicable prior year adjustments

What happened with the misallocation of funds?

FY2013-14 Title I-A Single Audit Finding

- School Improvement Fund set-aside was limited to 4% above prior year allocation at any given LEA, as opposed to ensuring 4% of total SEA funding was set aside (which inherently requires some LEAs to contribute more than 4% to compensate for those that are unable to due to limited increases or decreases vs prior year)
- There was an inconsistent application of hold harmless, with hold harmless being applied incorrectly or not at all in some years
- An incorrect order of operations was used, which led to incorrect hold harmless amounts and set aside amounts
- There was a lack of adjustments to existing LEAs for the addition of new LEAs (not included in current or next year as a prior year adjustment)

What happened with the misallocation of funds?

FY2013-14 Title I-A Single Audit Finding

The cumulative FY14-FY17 allocation errors are as follows:

- The School Improvement Fund was underfunded by \$24.5M
- All LEAs were impacted to some extent. More LEAs received too much funding than not enough funding, and in net total, LEAs were allocated approximately \$31.8M too much across FY14-FY17. However, some LEAs included in one or more years' files are no longer in existence as of FY17. Excluding these LEAs (who were, in net, underfunded by \$2.2M), the total net error is an over-allocation of \$34.0M. This equates to just under 3% of total Title 1 funding allocated to LEAs for FY14-FY17
- Of all LEAs impacted, 10 LEAs were over-funded more than \$1M, and 1 LEA was underfunded more than \$1M.

What has been done to fix it?

- Our staff has worked in conjunction with Afton Partners Inc., a third-party, independent fiscal consulting firm, and staff with the United States Department of Education (ED) to ensure that all LEAs accurately receive the funds to which they are entitled
- All fiscal years FY14-17 for Title I-A have been recalculated and vetted with ED
- We have proposed a process with ED that will shore up LEAs that had been underfunded over a period of years, and not require repayment from LEAs that had been overfunded. Final resolution will be subject to review and approval by ED