



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

December 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO TITLE I STATE DIRECTORS

**Subject: Release of 2014 Census Data that will be Used to Allocate Fiscal Year 2016 Title I, Part A Funds to Local Educational Agencies**

Please find attached 2014 population and poverty estimates for the local educational agencies (LEAs) in your State, which the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) released on December 9, 2015. These data are also available at:  
<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html>.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will use 2014 Census data to calculate fiscal year 2016 (school year (SY) 2016–2017) Title I, Part A allocations. For additional context, ED's use of the annually updated Census data will continue in subsequent years because under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the statutory formulas that ED is required to use to calculate Title I, Part A allocations for the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are unchanged.

I am providing these data for two reasons: (1) to enable your State and your LEAs to review these data and verify the accuracy of the school district boundary survey on which these data are based; and (2) to enable you to estimate your LEAs' eligibility for, and allocation of, Title I, Part A funds. (See **Note** at end of letter.)

Review of estimated Census data: These estimates are based on a statistical model that incorporates information from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, administrative records taken from Federal income tax returns and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the most recent decennial Census, updates to population estimates that the Census Bureau may have completed since the last decennial census, data on Supplemental Security Income recipients, and economic data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Census Bureau has established a 90-day challenge period for reviewing these data and requests that **corrections be submitted in cases where non-statistical errors can be documented**. Such errors generally include errors that the Census Bureau may have made in: (1) processing input data or running the estimation models/programs; or (2) in preparing or processing information to define geographic boundaries (e.g., school district boundaries).

This challenge period ends on **March 8, 2016**. Based on the two factors outlined in the previous paragraph, if you believe that the Census estimates are incorrect, you or an LEA official may contact the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Branch at the Census Bureau for further information about how to challenge these estimates.

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
<http://www.ed.gov/>

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

To obtain information on the process you need to follow in order to challenge these data, please contact the SAIPE Branch at:

(301) 763-3193 or  
E-mail: [sehds.saipe@census.gov](mailto:sehds.saipe@census.gov)

When sending an e-mail, please include your name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and organization affiliation. For more information and guidance concerning the Census Bureau's challenge procedures, please see the following web site:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html>

For more information about the data sources and the methodology used to prepare these data, please see the frequently asked questions fact sheet prepared by the Census Bureau available at:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/about/index.html>

The list of school districts used for the 2014 estimates is based on the SY 2013–2014 school district boundary survey conducted by the Census Bureau with the help of the district mapping coordinator in your State. Also, the school districts on this list include only “regular” school districts that have geographic boundaries. The list does not include, for example, special school districts, such as charter schools, that a State recognizes as LEAs, as well as regional vocational education districts. Rather than “correcting” for such LEA boundary data, States must adjust the SY 2016–2017 Title I, Part A LEA allocations that ED determines in order to accommodate new or special LEAs not included on the Census Bureau's SY 2013–2014 list.

Estimating LEAs' eligibility and allocations: The table attached to this memorandum—the estimated number of related children ages 5-17 in families in poverty, the estimated total school-age population, and the estimated total resident population for each LEA—will also enable you to determine which LEAs on this list are potentially eligible for funds under the Basic, Concentration, Targeted, and Education Finance Incentive Grants allocation formulas.<sup>1</sup> The Census poverty data do not include the other children counted in the formula, such as foster and neglected children. This information will help you determine which LEAs are potentially eligible and help LEAs begin planning for the coming school year. In addition, the 85, 90, and 95 percent hold-harmless guarantee provided in the Title I statute can help eligible LEAs plan for the coming school year because they can expect that their SY 2016–2017 Title I, Part A allocations under each formula calculated by ED will be at least 85, 90, or 95 percent of the prior year's amounts.

The information also shows which LEAs in your State have a total resident population of less than 20,000. This will enable you to begin exploring whether your SEA wishes to use the flexibility provided in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, to

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<sup>1</sup> To be eligible for a Basic Grant, an LEA must have at least 10 children counted under the Title I formula **and** the number of formula children must be greater than two percent of the LEA's ages 5 to 17 population. To be eligible for a Concentration Grant, an LEA must generally have more than 6,500 formula children **or** the number of formula children must exceed 15 percent of the LEA's ages 5 to 17 population. To qualify for Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grants, an LEA must have at least 10 formula children **and** that number must be at least 5 percent of its ages 5 to 17 population.

redistribute LEA allocations determined by ED for those districts with a resident population under 20,000 using alternative poverty data approved by ED.

I recognize that SEAs have questions about how changes to the ESEA resulting from enactment of the ESSA will affect the within-State allocation process under Title I, Part A that an SEA uses to determine each LEA's final Title I, Part A allocation. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the regulations promulgated under NCLB that govern within-State allocations under Title I, Part A and were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the ESSA, will continue to apply to funds allocated for use during the 2016–2017 school year. Therefore, for FY 2016 (SY 2016–2017) within-State Title I, Part A allocations, an SEA will continue to follow those requirements. Please also be assured that ED will provide detailed information on the changes to the within-State Title I, Part A allocation process that will first apply to FY 2017 (SY 2017–2018) Title I, Part A allocations...

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Rooney  
Acting Director  
Office of State Support

**Note:** ADE must adjust LEA allocations provided by ED to incorporate any non-geographic districts and eligible charter LEAs in addition to calculating state level set-asides for state administration and school improvement. To estimate future allocations it is better to compare the changes relative to the previous year.