

FAST FACTS

Private School Programs

Title I Private School Student Selection

In a private school Title I program, the school district must work with local private school officials in outlining the criteria that will be used to determine which private school children are eligible for Title I services. It is important to note that prior to services being provided, students must first be determined eligible for Title I services. Federal Title I law requires that selection of Title I students be based on objective, uniformly applied criteria given to all students at each grade level and documented on a student selection worksheet. Listed below are specific points to keep in mind regarding the student selection process within a Title I private school program.

Student Eligibility Guidelines:

In order to be determined eligible, a student must:

- ◆ attend a private school;
- ◆ reside in a Title I-participating public school attendance area of the district;
- ◆ **be identified as academically failing or at risk of failing to meet the state's standards** through a uniformly applied process including multiple criterion, such as:
 - achievement tests
 - teacher referral & recommendation based on objective, educationally related criteria such as grades supported with assessment measurement
 - grades
 - K-2 eligible students are selected solely on teacher judgment, interviews with parents, and developmentally appropriate measures

Student Selection Guidelines:

- Process must be documented through a worksheet that is used to compile, compare, and document the student selection data. These worksheets also document who will receive services. The students must be ranked in priority order according to greatest need for services.
- The selection criteria should be given to all eligible students in each particular grade being served.
- Examples of criteria used for student selection could include: report card grades, book tests, informal reading inventories, computer based assessments (STAR, NWEA, etc.).
- Assessments used for student selection cannot be paid for with Title I funds.
- The student selection worksheet must list each of the criteria used so that it is easy to see that students were selected uniformly and objectively.
- Economically disadvantaged, learning disabled, LEP, and migrant students must be selected on the same basis as all other students. Professional staff cannot exclude them solely because they are receiving other services.
- If a new student moves into the private school, they must be selected and ranked in the same way as the other eligible students receiving services. Even if they received services in another school, they must meet your school's criteria before receiving services. It is best to use criteria that are readily available if a new student needs to be tested.
- The average caseload for a Title I teacher is 25-35 students. A caseload above 45 students is too many for one teacher to oversee. However, very small caseloads may indicate a need to widen the selection criteria to make more students eligible for the program.
- The basic rule of thumb is that only students who have been found to be eligible for Title I and whose parents have been informed, should receive Title I services. The purpose is to give identified students additional services above and beyond the primary instruction they receive in the regular classroom.

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding this Fast Facts, please contact:

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