

Memorandum

To: Local Education Agencies

From: Emily Butler, Acting Title I Director
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Date: March 27, 2009

Re: NCLB Title I, Part A Allocations for Federal Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009

The purpose of the memorandum is to provide information to the Local Education Agencies that have applied for federal funding under Title I, Part A of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) on the method used to determine allocations for Federal Fiscal Year 2008. This process will also be substantially the same for Title I, Part A allocations for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 and beyond.

I. How the Final Fiscal Year 2009 Allocations Were Calculated for Title I, Part A

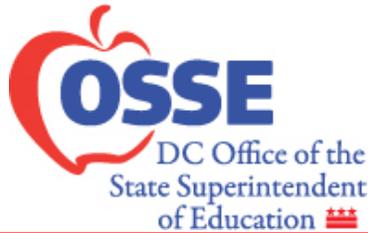
The DC School Reform Act of 1995 (SRA) defines the formula OSSE is to use in allocating Title I, Part A funds to the public charter schools and to DCPS. Under the SRA, the low-income student count used to allocate these funds is determined using one of the acceptable measures of poverty outlined in Section 1113(a)(5) of Title I-A. In compliance with this section, OSSE uses the number of children eligible for free and reduced priced lunches (FRPL) under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to determine the low-income student counts for LEAs.

Eligibility for Title I, Part A funds:

Before Title I-A funds are allocated to a charter school LEA, Section 38-1802.10(a)(1)(A) mandates that the charter school must first be eligible for those Title I-A funds. Charter schools are eligible only if the percentage of their enrolled students that are low-income students is equal to or greater than the lowest percentage of low-income students in a DCPS school receiving Title I-A funds (DCPS ranks their schools by poverty rate from highest to lowest and determines the range of schools on that list that will receive Title I-A funds). For example, for FFY 2008, the DCPS school with the lowest rate of poverty receiving Title I-A funds has a low-income student rate of 31.73%. As a result, only those charter schools with a poverty rate equal to or greater than 31.73% are eligible for Title I-A funds in FFY 2008.

Title I-A Allocation Formula:

Once the list of eligible charter school LEAs is determined, Title I-A funds are allocated based on the proportion of low-income students enrolled in the LEA to the total number of low-income students in the



District who are served by Title I-A. For FFY 2008, if an LEA did not participate in the free and reduced priced lunches program, OSSE used the District-wide average in FRPL participation, which for that fiscal year was 70%, to estimate the number of low-income students enrolled in that LEA.

Once the funds have been allocated, OSSE reserves the 4% state set-aside for School Improvement (per Section 1003 of NCLB) and 1% state set-aside for State Administration costs (per Section 1004 of NCLB). The resulting amount is each LEA's final Title I-A allocation for FFY 2008.

II. How the Allocations for Title I, Part A will be Calculated in FFY 2009

In Fiscal Year 2009 and beyond, the procedure for determining a charter school LEA's eligibility for Title I-A funds and the formula for calculating each LEA's allocation of Title I-A funds will remain consistent with the methodology mandated by the SRA and NCLB. In compliance with these statutes, the previous year's audited enrollment, FRPL participation, and DCPS ranking and serving data will be used to determine an LEA's eligibility and allocation for Title I-A funds. For those LEAs that elect not to participate in the FRL program, OSSE's Wellness and Nutrition Services Department will work directly with that LEA to discuss alternative poverty measures that OSSE may use to establish low-income student counts within that LEA. All LEAs will therefore be required to have an official poverty count to allow OSSE to calculate its Title I-A allocations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to Emily Butler, Acting Title I Director, at Emily.Butler@dc.gov or (202) 727-9882.