



Title I: Transitioning Guide from a Targeted Assistance Program to Schoolwide Programming

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I-funded schools currently operating targeted assistance programs may have the option to transition to Title I schoolwide programs. Transitioning to a Title I schoolwide program allows a district to use Title I funds to enable a school to more effectively leverage Federal funds to upgrade its entire educational program.

All LEAs interested in planning to transition to a Title I schoolwide program must notify PDE's Division of Federal Programs by completing the ["Intent to Plan SWP Form"](#) for operating a Title I Schoolwide Program and must be submitted via email attachment to Lisa St Clair at listclair@pa.gov.

Note: Schools already approved to operate a Title I schoolwide program in previous years do not need to re-apply annually.

Background

The following Title I-funded targeted assistance schools may transition to a Title I schoolwide program:

- Title I targeted assistance schools with less than 40 percent poverty, for which the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) grants an approved waiver (now completed and approved as part of the Intent to Plan Application process); and
- Title I targeted assistance schools that meet the 40 percent poverty requirement.

In accordance with [ESEA section 1114](#) a school operating a Title I targeted assistance program that elects to transition to a Title I schoolwide program must:

- Conduct at least one year of planning to transition to a schoolwide program, which may be waived if the school previously has been operating under a strategic plan or improvement plan that addresses the entire school;
- Consult with all relevant school stakeholder groups; and

- Submit an Annual Title I Schoolwide School Plan (SWP) that addresses the following required components in the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP):
 1. A Comprehensive Needs Assessment of the entire school;
 2. Strategies to identify and address priority needs, including a description of how such strategies will:
 - a. Provide opportunities for all children, including each subgroup of students, as defined in ESEA section 1111(c)(2), to meet the challenging state academic standards;
 - b. Use methods and instructional strategies that strengthen the academic program in the school, increase the amount and quality of learning time, and help provide an enriched and accelerated curriculum, which may include programs, activities, and courses necessary to provide a well-rounded education; and
 - c. Address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of low achieving students who are at risk of not meeting the challenging state academic standards, through various support activities; and
 3. An annual evaluation of the implemented programs and services as articulated in the SWP.

Schoolwide Poverty Percentage Waiver Request

At this time, PDE is providing an opportunity for interested Title I targeted assistance schools with less than 40 percent poverty to apply for waivers. PDE approval of the waiver is necessary for Title I targeted assistance schools with less than 40 percent poverty to apply for Title I schoolwide status.

Schools with less than 40 percent poverty rates that are interested in transitioning to a Title I schoolwide program must submit a Title I schoolwide waiver request application using the template on [PDE's Title I webpage](#), named "Intent to Plan SWP Form." The waiver request application must be submitted via email to Lisa St. Clair at listclair@pa.gov. Both the Title I Director/Coordinator and School Principal must sign off on the application. PDE will issue official notifications to school upon approval of the poverty percentage waiver requests, with specific instructions on the next steps in the transition process to schoolwide programs.

Once a school is approved to operate as a schoolwide program, and verification of the original "Intent to Plan SWP Form" is received by PDE, the school will remain eligible regardless of their poverty count drops below the 40 percent poverty level.

Schoolwide Program Guidance

Details on Title I schoolwide programs are provided in the Supporting School Reform by Leveraging

Federal Funds in a Schoolwide Program guidance document from the U.S. Department of Education. This guidance highlights advantages and flexibilities inherent in a Title I schoolwide program.

Contact Information

For questions about transitioning to a Title I schoolwide program, please email the Title I Schoolwide Program and Targeted Assistance Manager at PDE's Division of Federal Programs, Lisa St Clair, at lstclair@pa.gov for further information.