

BUREAU OF *Federal* EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Comparability: Enrollment Size Grouping

Comparability Background:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), emphasizes the purpose of Title I, Part A (TIPA) is to deliver additional resources to low-performing students from high-poverty neighborhoods, beyond what state and local funds provide.

Specifically, Section 1118 of ESSA requires that local educational agencies (LEAs) provide state- and locally-funded services in Title I, Part A schools that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services provided in schools that are not Title I, Part A.

Florida requires that LEAs not eligible to claim comparability exemption, must annually determine comparability using the pupil-teacher ratios method to examine the average number of students per instructional staff member (pupil-teacher ratios) in non-Title I schools compared to the pupil-teacher ratios of each Title I school.

Enrollment Size Range Grouping Method

When LEA-wide or grade span basis pupil-teacher ratio calculations do not demonstrate that all Title I schools are comparable, and school data lend themselves to high-low group/band analyses, for example when a grade span includes very high and low enrollment schools, separate size enrollment groups may be used.

Example: LEA grouping method used with three out of their four grade spans.

Grade Span	Enrollment Size Range Grouping	
Elementary	Smaller	102-650
	Larger	651-1250
Middle	Smaller	Opted not to use
	Larger	
High	Smaller	127-850
	Larger	851-3051
Combination	Smaller	105-250
	Larger	251-1810

Using not applicable with <100 enrollment so **Smaller** range starts with their 102 enrollment elementary school

The smallest of **Larger** range must be at least 2 times the start of Smaller range. Enrollment of 651 is larger than 2 x 102 or 204.

An LEA using the enrollment size range grouping method must ensure that the enrollments for each school are included in the range grouping.

Resources:

[Non-regulatory Guidance, Title I Fiscal Issues](#) (PDF; February 2008) The U. S. Department of Education information regarding comparability of services requirements and sample calculations.

[Text of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965](#) (as reauthorized by the ESSA) (PDF; Updated 28-Jan-2020)

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Enrollment Size Range Grouping Method Highlights

- If an LEA is excluding schools with less than 100 student enrollments, the enrollment size range must start with the actual school enrollment size in that grade span group that will be included in the calculation.
- Ranges should be based on actual schools' student enrollment and membership data.
- An LEA may only use this option if the smallest school in a large enrollment size group has an enrollment size that is at least twice the enrollment of the smallest school in the small enrollment size group.
- This method may be used with some grade spans while not using it with other. For example, enrollment size group used with an LEA's elementary, high and combination grade spans but not with their middle schools.