

BUREAU OF *Federal* EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Equitable Services for Private School Students under Title I, Part A

Under Title I of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA, LEAs are required to provide services for eligible public and private school students, their teachers and their families. Specifically, Section 1117 requires a participating LEA to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools, their teachers, and their families with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. To help ensure such equity, the state educational agency (SEA) designates an ombudsman to monitor and enforce the requirements relating to the participation of children in private schools.

Title I, Part A services for private school students, their teachers, and their families must be developed in consultation with private school officials in a timely and meaningful manner. An LEA must collect a written affirmation signed by private school officials indicating that the required consultation has occurred. Furthermore, the results of the agreement must be transmitted to the ombudsmen designated by the state to monitor private school student participation.

LEAs must count the number of students from low-income families residing in each of its participating public school attendance areas who attend private school and set aside an equitable proportion of its allocation to serve private school students, their teachers and their families. Private school students who reside in a participating public school attendance area are eligible to receive Title I, Part A services, regardless of the physical location of the participating private school.

The Title I, Part A services provided by the LEA for private school participants should be designed to meet educational needs and supplement the educational services provided by the private school. These services may be provided by LEAs or by contractors who are independent of the private school. Title I, Part A services or benefits must be secular, neutral and non-ideological.

Resources:

[Non-Regulatory Guidance: Providing Equitable Services to Private School Children, Teachers, and Families](#) (PDF; October 2019)

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

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Title I, Part A
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When should Title I, Part A services for private school students begin?

Under the equitable services provision of the ESSA, equitable service programs for private school participants must begin at the same time as the programs for public school participants.

To ensure that equitable services are provided in a timely manner, LEAs must obligate funds allocated for equitable services under all applicable programs in the year for which they are appropriated.

What types of services are available for private school students?

Services, determined in consultation, to improve the academic achievement of participating private school children may include, but are not limited to:

- Instructional services;
- Expanded learning time, including before- and after-school programs;
- Mentoring programs;
- One-on-one tutoring;
- Counseling programs;
- Computer-assisted instruction;
- Summer school programs;
- Family literacy programs; and
- Home tutoring.