
Title I and No Child Left Behind

Sanctions under No Child Left Behind largely apply to schools designated as Title I schools. Title I schools are schools that receive federal funding earmarked by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA—the formal name for the legislation; *No Child Left Behind* is the name given to the most recent renewal of the legislation) for the improvement of the education of disadvantaged students. There are several exceptions and special rules, but in general, a school is eligible to receive Title I funds if either:

- the percent of students in poverty of the total population served by the school is at least equal to the percent of students in poverty across the entire Local Education Agency (LEA), which in North Carolina is typically a city or county school district; or
- the percent of students in poverty is equal to or greater than 35 percent.^a

There are two major types of Title I assistance:

1. *Schoolwide Program (SWP) Funding.* SWP designation allows a school to use federal Title I funding to enhance service delivery for the entire school, and not just for students who qualify for federal funding on the basis of family income or some other measure. In order to be eligible for SWP status, a school must serve a population in which at least 40 percent of the students are from low-income families. *SWP Schools are subject to federal sanctions under No Child Left Behind.*^b
2. *Targeted Assistance Schools (TAS) Funding.* TAS designation allows a school to use federal Title I funding to enhance service delivery *for eligible students only*; i.e., a TAS-funded program can only serve those children who can be classified as Title I students, a definition somewhat broader than socioeconomic status that also includes students identified as being at risk of school failure. *Schools with TAS funding also are subject to federal sanctions under NCLB, but sanctions may only apply if the specific population served by the TAS funding does not meet minimum federal assessment standards.*^c

Eligible schools that do not accept or receive Title I funds are not subject to most of the NCLB sanctions. In 2002–2003, 116 out of 117 North Carolina LEAs had at least one Title I school (only Polk county did not) and more than half of all charter schools received Title I funds—1,132 schools in all.^d

—Trip Stallings

FOOTNOTES

^a ESEA, Section 1113.

^b ESEA, Sections 1114 & 1116.

^c ESEA, Sections 1115 & 1116.

^d *North Carolina 2002–2003 Title I Schoolwide Programs (SWP) and Targeted Assistance Schools (TAS)*, http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/030114_leatotals.pdf.