

# Title I Schoolwide Pooling: Funding Flexibility for High Poverty Districts

## SCHOOLWIDE POOLING (ESEA SECTION 1114)

Districts that operate Title I schoolwide programs, which allow comprehensive reform strategies to improve the academic achievement of all students in the school, may consolidate federal, state and local funds to upgrade a school's entire educational program.

## POOLING PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

Consolidating various grant funds gives district and school leaders a total amount of funding to serve their unique needs within each school building. District and school leaders who operate schoolwide pooling within their buildings can focus on and budget according to their collective needs, rather than focusing on and budgeting for individual program grant amounts and requirements. In other words, with consolidation of funds, each activity cost comes from a percentage of the collective pool. Benefits of schoolwide pooling include:

- One budget;
- One plan;
- Leveraging of resources and flexibility in use of funds;
- Quicker rate of spending down federal funds.
- Less carryover or loss of funds.

## STEPS FOR SCHOOLWIDE POOLING

1. Develop a comprehensive needs assessment;
2. Develop a comprehensive plan;
3. Determine the various grants and state and local funds to include in the pool to meet identified needs.

## FUNDS REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLWIDE POOLING

- Local (required);
- State (required) except for State Special Education funds are distributed by the number of students in each Schoolwide Title I served building.
- Federal (most formula funds). See ESEA section 1114(a)(1) and (3);
- No competitive funds.

## USES OF FUNDS

- Must be used to meet the needs in the plan;
- Must meet the intent and purposes of the contributing grants.

## HOW DOES POOLING WORK?

- Individual grant funds in the pool are considered a part of the whole pool;
- The amount of the individual grant funds becomes a percentage of the whole pool;
- Each expenditure, (for example, teacher salaries) is made up of the percentages of all the contributing funds.

## EXAMPLE EXPENDITURE IN THE POOLING PROCESS

- School has an expenditure (teacher salary):
  - The total amount of the expenditure is made up of the percentages of all the contributing grant funds in the pool.
- District requests a Project Cash Request (PCR) for payment by specifying the individual grant amounts applied toward that expenditure. This is similar to transferring funds;
- The state and local funds used for the expenditure are not shown in the PCR. Under consolidation, state and local funds are required and thus assumed for each cost;
- CCIP tool helps districts determine building-level funding;
- The district may not exceed 100 percent of any individual program allocation;
- District completes a Final Expenditure Report (FER) in the fall. Remaining funds are returned to the individual grant program allocation amounts.

### Example of Funds in a School Pool:

Funds	Percentage
General Fund (state and local)	85
Title I	10
Title II	2
IDEA	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## THINGS TO NOTE

- District places fund in the pool at its own discretion;
- District must budget for any required set-asides the grants require and any non-pooled funds, for example, required amounts set aside for nonpublic equitable services, professional development or family engagement;
- Districts must complete the budget details page in the CCIP for all grants in the pool.
- Schoolwide pooling of funds does not exclude the school from (a) Health, Safety and Civil Rights requirements (b) Maintenance of Effort (c) Comparability and (d) Supplement not Supplant requirements.

## SCHOOLWIDE RESOURCES

- [USED Schoolwide Guidance 2016](#)
- [USED July 2015 Guidance](#)