

Title I Schoolwide Pooling: Funding Flexibility for High Poverty Districts

November 2015

Schoolwide Pooling (ESEA Section 1114)

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

Eligibility

School enrollment is at least 40% low-income students.

Pooling Purpose and Benefits

Consolidation of various grant funds gives district/school leaders a total amount of funding available to serve their unique needs within each school building. District/school leaders that operate schoolwide pooling within their buildings have the ability to focus on and budget against their collective needs rather than having to focus on and budget against individual program/grant amounts and requirements. In other words, with consolidation of funds, the focus is first on the needs rather than the focus being first on individual grant amounts and rigid requirements. Benefits include:

- One budget
- One plan
- Leverage of resources and flexibility of using of funds
- Quicker rate of spending down federal funds

Steps for SW and SW Pooling

1. Develop comprehensive needs assessments
2. Develop comprehensive plan
3. Determine the various grants/funds to include in the pool to meet the needs

Funds required and available for SW Pooling

- Local (required)
- State (required)
- Federal (most formula funds available)

Uses of Funds

- Must be used to meet the needs in the plan
- Must meet the intents 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 (i.e. teacher salary) is made up of the percentages of all the contributing funds
- Example of Funds in a School Pool:

Funds	Percentage
General Fund (state and local)	85
Title I	10
Title II	2
Title III	1
IDEA	3
Total	100

Example Pooling Process

- School has an expenditure (e.g. 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 towards that expenditure
 - 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% of any individual program allocation
- District completes Final Expenditure Report (FER) in the fall. Remaining funds are returned to the individual grant program allocation amounts

Notables

- Funds are placed in the pool at district discretion
- District must budget for any required set asides by the grants and any non-pooled funds (e.g. required amounts set aside for non-public equitable services, professional development, family engagement, etc.)

Schoolwide Resources

- [USDOE July 2015 Guidance](#)
- [USDOE March 2006 Designing Schoolwide Programs Guidance](#)
- [USDOE February 2008 Title I Fiscal Issues Guidance](#)
- [ODE Comprehensive Guidance](#)