



Information Regarding Federal Programs of Interest

During your non-public school registration process, you have indicated that you are interested in the possibility of your student(s) receiving federal program services through your local public education agency. To help you further understand how this works, we are providing some information regarding the way services are provided and some specifics about the applicable federal programs.

Non-public students who qualify according to specific program guidelines may receive services available to students who attend the public school district they would normally attend. The services are provided via a public-school employee or contracted individual at a location mutually agreed upon during a consultation meeting between the public school and non-public school official(s). All services and educational content must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. At no time does funding go directly to non-public school. The amount of money dedicated to the services, commonly known as equitable share, depends upon the number of eligible students and the program in which they are participating. For Title I A, the largest and most common program, you can estimate \$800-\$1000 per student. While the goal during consultation is for the equitable share amount to provide services throughout the school year, the local education agency is not obligated to provide services once the full amount has been expended.

There are also several other factors that would determine which programs a student might receive services through. These include:

- Which federal program funds the local education agency receives.
- Whether or not the local education agency transfers funds into other programs.
- Whether or not the non-public school of attendance has any low-income students
- Whether or not the student meets the eligibility requirements for the services. For Title I A, the student would have to demonstrate they are at risk of failing to meet state academic standards based upon a documented, valid assessment measure.

Title I Part A: Achievement of the Disadvantaged.

This program provides services for students at risk of failing to meet state academic standards. To qualify, students must reside in a district receiving these funds, attend a private or homeschool with one or more low income students, and have an assessed academic deficiency which can be addressed through services above and beyond normal



academic instruction. Services would include supplemental instruction, tutoring, online or software supports, or other interventions to help the students become proficient in Montana state standards. Most districts in Montana receive Title I A funding.

Title I Part C: Migrant Education Program

This program provides services for children whose family is transitional due to agricultural work, fishing, or other work that requires frequent relocation and disrupts the student(s) academic matriculation. To qualify, students must be identified through a recruiter and complete enrollment paperwork. Services include academic interventions and whole child supports which help the student stay on track academically through their frequent relocations. Only 3 school districts in Montana receive Title I C funding although they provide services to eligible students across the state.

Title II Part A: Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals.

This program does not provide direct services to students but provides professional learning opportunities for teachers. This can include homeschool and private school teachers. Funds can support registration and attendance of teacher/administrator conferences and trainings, contracted services from professional development providers, and other costs that support student access to high quality, effective classroom teachers. Most districts receive Title II A funding, but many transfer the funding into Title I A. In such case, the homeschool would not be eligible for professional development services, but would receive a larger Title I A equitable share if they signed up for Title I A and had eligible students.

Title III Part A: Language Instruction for English Learners

This program provides supplemental services for students who do not test proficient in English when they enroll in school. Services are designed to help them become proficient in English while they also develop proficiency with state academic standards. A relatively small number of Montana school districts receive this funding as they must have a critical number of English Language Learners to qualify.

Title IV Part A: Student Support and Academic Achievement

This program provides supplemental supports based upon one or more of the following initiative areas:

- Well Rounded Education (e.g. supplemental elective courses, citizenship initiatives, enrichment activities)



- Safe and Healthy Students (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, and drug prevention, anti-bullying prevention)
- Effective Use of Technology (e.g. instructional technology purchases, training for teachers to better utilize technology in the classroom)

To qualify, students need to reside in a school district that receives Title IV A funding. While most districts in Montana receive this funding, approximately two thirds of them transfer their funds into Title I A or Title II A. Like Title II A, students would not receive services if the district transfers funds out of this program but larger equitable share amounts in the other programs would be available for qualifying students/educators.

Title IV Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

This program provides supplemental learning and enrichment programming before and after school as well as during summer. Service offerings are similar to those in Title IV A. Any student who resides in a district receiving funds can participate. However, unlike the other Title programs, 21st Century is competitive and not formula driven. A relatively small number of Montana schools receive this funding. Before or after school services would be attended on the campus of the local school. 21st Century funds cannot be transferred into another program.

Carl Perkins V: Strengthening Career and Technical Education For the 21st Century

This program provides students opportunities to explore, choose, and follow career and technical education (CTE) programs and career pathways that align with industry standards, credentials, and certifications. To qualify, a student must reside in a district that has an identified CTE pathway and have interest/desire to proceed through that program. Most pathway-specific courses must be attended on the campus of the local school.

School Nutrition Programs

School Nutrition Programs, within the Student Support Services, administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition programs in schools. The programs are: National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, Special Milk Program, Summer Food Service Program, USDA Food Distribution Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the Montana Team Nutrition Program. The OPI School Nutrition Programs work with schools and communities to provide children with access to



healthful meals and snacks that nourish their minds and bodies and school nutrition environments that encourage healthful lifestyles.

A private/nonpublic nonprofit school with documentation from the Internal Revenue Service stating that it has tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 may apply to the OPI to operate the School Nutrition Programs. The private/nonpublic nonprofit school must submit a signed agreement, common assurances, and free and reduced-price policy statement to affirm that it will administer the programs according to the provisions of those documents.

Special Education IDEA Part B– Preschool (child must be age 5)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds are for the purpose of providing special education and related services to children with disabilities, beginning at age 3, who have been identified as eligible under the requirements of IDEA and state administrative rules. If a non-public school believes they have one or more students who have a qualifying disability and would like them to receive IDEA services, they should reach out to their local district and request a consultation to discuss potential services that might be provided. The local district is only obligated to conduct child find services and those special education and related services it has decided to provide in accord with the requirements of 34 CFR 300.130-144.