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Title I, Part A Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged Fact Sheet

PURPOSE:

The purpose of Title I, Part A is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards.

LEGISLATION:

Title I, Part A is the longest running and highest funded program within the Elementary & Secondary Education Act, currently reauthorized as *Every Student Succeeds Act* passed December, 2015. The law was initially passed as a significant part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty in 1965.

FUNDING:

Title I, Part A is the largest federally funded education program in the United States. Vermont's share going to schools is \$33 million for the 2016-17 school year. The Vermont Agency of Education distributes the funds to Supervisory Unions/Districts by formula based upon US Census poverty numbers and SUs/SDs distribute to school buildings by relative poverty via a targeting and ranking process. The Agency of Education is allowed to take the small state minimum for administering the grant - \$400,000. Starting in school year 2017-18, 7% of the State's allocation will be directed for school improvement for Vermont's lowest performing schools.

POPULATION SERVED:

Once a school receives a Title I allocation, the school decides if they want to operate as a targeted assistance or as a schoolwide program. In a targeted assistance program, students are identified for services by having an academic need and not necessarily those who are poor. In the early years of Title I, most services were directed at students in the early grades who needed help in reading/language arts and or math. Currently more and more middle and high school are Title I schools. Unlike Special Education, Title I is not an entitlement and many more students are eligible than there are resources to serve. In a schoolwide program, the focus is on whole school reform and services may be provided to all students, but the school must still have a focus on those students who are struggling academically. Extended day, week, year programs are strongly encouraged.

BASIC TENETS:

The Congress in passing the Elementary & Secondary Education Act believed all students are capable of high achievement, professional development and parental involvement are critical, and collaboration with others, both within education and the community is crucial. School reform efforts are encouraged via:

- ✓ Title I schoolwide programs;
- ✓ Building-level decision making based on data; and
- ✓ Accountability based on common statewide assessments and graduation rates.

The foundation of a good Title I program is a comprehensive needs assessment and a continuous improvement plan. From that schools and LEAs must:

- ✓ Supplement current offerings with evidenced- based practices;
- ✓ Strongly consider extended time programming;
- ✓ Provide quality pre-school programming;
- ✓ Minimize pull-out activities;
- ✓ Offer on-going professional learning;
- ✓ Engage parents in a meaningful way;
- ✓ Evaluate strategies at least annually;
- ✓ Consider the schoolwide program model.

For further information, contact:

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