Poverty counts

1. Used in equalized pupil calculation
   a. Data come from DCF
   b. Counts the number of individuals in a school district aged 6 through 17, living with family units receiving nutrition benefits.
   c. Families may be eligible for nutrition benefits is they have an income equal to or less than 185% of the federal poverty level or are a family with children that received a Vermont earned income tax credit
   d. Data are reported annually on July 1 and December 1
   e. A two-year average is used to calculate the poverty ratio for the equalized pupil calculation
2. Free and reduced lunch and breakfast programs
   a. Eligibility for free meals
      i. a family's income must be at or below 130% of the Federal poverty level
      ii. the family/household receives 3SquaresVT or Reach-Up
      iii. or children are Directly Certified as free eligible
   b. Families whose income falls between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty line qualify for reduced price meals
3. Title I formula counts
   a. USED uses SAIPE data from the US Census Bureau (SAIPE is small area income and poverty estimates).
   b. The following is from the SAIPE website:
      i. Estimates are not direct counts from enumerations or administrative records, nor direct estimates from sample surveys.
      ii. For counties and states, the US Census Bureau models income and poverty estimates by combining survey data with population estimates and administrative records.
      iii. For school districts, the US Census Bureau uses the model-based county estimates and inputs from federal tax information and multi-year survey data to produce estimates of poverty.
      iv. SAIPE revises and improves their methodology as time and resources allow. The details of the methodology differ slightly from year to year.
   c. SAIPE is a poverty measure that generally identifies fewer families as low-income than the Free and Reduced Lunch counts that LEAs collect for other purposes.

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about.html