

### What is Title I?

Title I is the largest federal aid program supporting K-12 schools with high percentages of children from low-income families. Originally created in 1965 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty," the Title I program seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to receive a fair, equitable and high-quality education, and to close achievement gaps.

**Fact:** In fiscal year 2017, Title I grants to schools totaled \$15.5 billion.

### How do schools receive Title I funding?

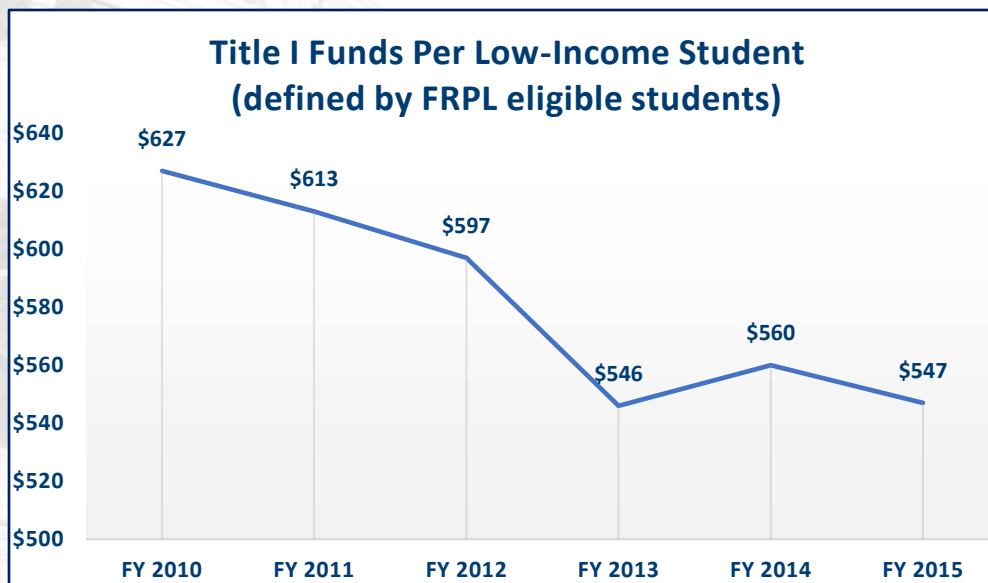
States and school districts receive Title I money based on the number of low-income students in each school district. School districts receive Title I funding based on a formula that takes into consideration poverty estimates and the difference in cost for educating a child in each state.

**Fact:** The Title I program serves more than 56,000 public schools and 21 million children nationwide.

### How is Title I funding used in schools?

School districts work with their state to create an education plan for Title I funds to ensure that the money is used to close achievement gaps and offer all children a high-quality education. School districts may use Title I funds for a variety of services and resources such as including more education courses, increasing learning time in school, strengthening the school curriculum, implementing school intervention programs and organizing professional development opportunities for teachers and school leaders.

**Fact:** Title I schools with at least 40% of enrolled students from low-income families may use the funds to operate a "schoolwide program" to upgrade instructional programs that benefit all students.



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<sup>1</sup> Free or reduced-priced lunch (FRPL)

### Why should parents care about Title I funding?

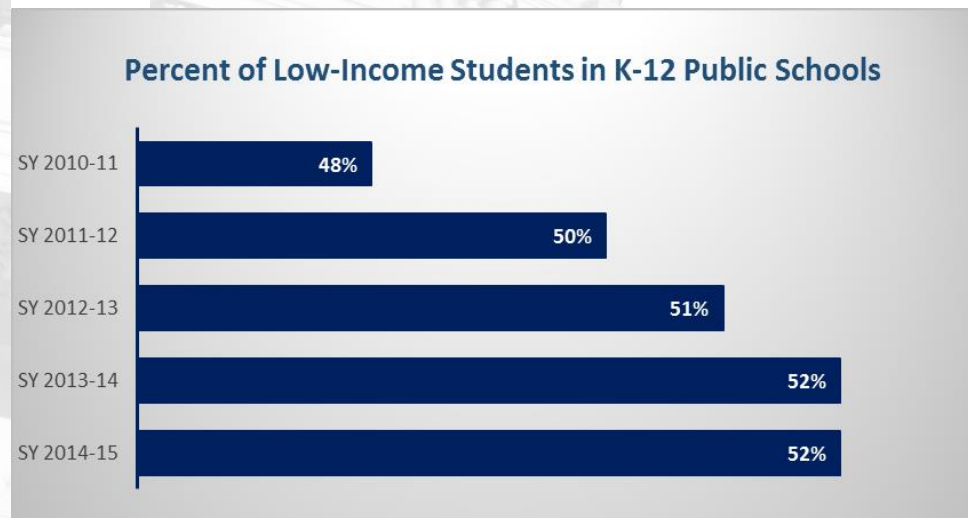
School districts must reserve at least 1% of Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities if they receive more than \$500,000 in funding. School districts may use the reserved money for activities such as professional development on parent and family engagement strategies, programs to reach parents and families at home and sharing best practices for family engagement across schools.

**Fact:** Students with engaged families attend school more regularly, earn better grades, enroll in more advanced-level programs and have higher graduation rates.<sup>2</sup>

### Why should parents be concerned about the future of Title I funding?

In recent years, Title I funding has remained around the same level, despite the increase in K-12 public school enrollment and growing number of low-income students attending public schools. The disparity between current Title I funding levels and the additional cost of ensuring all students receive a high-quality education means that the federal government has essentially enacted cuts to the Title I program.

For instance, from 2010 to 2015 low-income student enrollment grew by 4%, becoming the majority of public school students. Despite the increase in low-income student enrollment, Title I funding for schools essentially remained the same, meaning there were less funds to go to a larger number of students. This decreased Title I funding in almost half of the states and U.S. territories.



**Fact:** Title I spending for high-poverty schools has decreased by more than 8% since 2010.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. (2002). A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement. Annual Synthesis 2002. National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools. Retrieved from <https://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Leachman, M., Masterson, K., & Wallace, M. (2016). After Nearly a Decade, School Investments Still Way Down in Some States. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, 5.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2000-01, 2010-11, 2013-14, and 2014-15. (This table was prepared March 2017.)