

Title I and Early Childhood

Exploring What's Possible

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True or False

The LEA must send all Title I funds to schools.

FALSE

LEAs may choose to use some or all of their Title I funds for districtwide early childhood programs, and then allocate any remainder to individual schools according to the federal Title I allocation requirements.

True or False

Title I funds can be used to serve infants and toddlers, even if they do not have special needs.

TRUE

Title I funds can be used in programs serving children from birth to the age at which the school district provides a free elementary education

Multiple Choice

Which of these is an allowable use of Title I funds?

- A. Classroom-based instructional programs.
- B. Salaries and benefits for teachers and other staff.
- C. Home visiting programs.
- D. Extended day programs in Head Start or community-based child care programs.
- E. Professional development for early childhood professionals who serve Title I eligible children, including providers in non-school settings.
- F. Support services, such as nutrition, vision, dental, and counseling services.

Multiple Choice

All of the above

True or False

A school or district that provides preschool services must only follow state pre-k program requirements.

FALSE

The program must meet the education performance standards of the Head Start Program Performance Standards that are aligned with the Head Start Child Early Learning Outcomes Framework Ages Birth to Five (2015).

FALSE

Only Head Start eligible children are eligible for Title I funded early childhood services.

Certain children are “automatically eligible” to participate in a Title I preschool program, including:

- children who participated in Head Start,
- received services supported by the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants program within Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) (formerly known as Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program),
- attended a Title I preschool program at any time in the prior two years;
- children who received services under Title I, Part C (migrant education) in the prior two years;
- preschool-age children experiencing homelessness; and
- children who are in a local institution or attending a community day program for neglected or delinquent children and youth.

True or False

Only children in Head Start centers can be served with Title I funds outside of the school.

FALSE

Eligible children include children who:

- are not eligible for Head Start services based on income requirements;
- are eligible for Head Start but not served in a Head Start center due to unmet need;
- are enrolled in a State preschool, Head Start, child care, or community-based early learning program and
- are in need of additional services (e.g., extending the day, increasing number of days, etc.); or
- would benefit from home visiting because they are most at risk of failing to meet the State's challenging academic standards.

True or False

An LEA may provide early childhood services in community based settings such as Head Start or private child care using Title I funds.

TRUE

An LEA may use funds to provide early education services consistent with applicable program requirements. LEAs may do so in public schools or in preschool centers operated by the LEA, as well as in community-based preschool programs.

Fill in the blank

1. The LEA may/may not directly transfer ESEA funds to a community-based preschool program.
2. An LEA may/may not pay tuition to a community-based preschool program for eligible children.
3. An LEA may/may not extend the day and year for Head Start children.
4. A Title I school may/may not use all or a portion of its Title I funds to operate a preschool program for eligible children

Fill in the blank

1. The LEA **MAY NOT** directly transfer ESEA funds to a community-based preschool program.
2. An LEA **MAY NOT** pay tuition to a community-based preschool program for eligible children.
3. An LEA **MAY** extend the day and year for Head Start children.
4. A Title I school **MAY** use all or a portion of its Title I funds to operate a preschool program for eligible children

Auditor, May I?

- May I support for home visiting services?
- May I provide vision, hearing and dental screenings for four year olds?
- May I buy equipment for community-based providers?
- May I support high quality early childhood programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers as part of a school improvement strategy?
- May I create full-day kindergarten?
- May I support family engagement activities with community-providers?

Auditor, May I?

- May I support for home visiting services? **YES**
- May I provide vision, hearing and dental screenings for four year olds? **YES**
- May I buy equipment for community-based providers? **YES**
- May I support high quality early childhood programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers as part of a school improvement strategy? **YES**
- May I create full-day kindergarten? **YES (with caveats)**
- May I support family engagement activities with community-providers? **YES**

What else do I need to know?

LEA Coordination with Head Start and Other Early Childhood Programs

Each LEA receiving *Title I* funds, *regardless of whether it operates a Title I preschool program*, **must develop agreements** and carry out the following coordination activities with Head Start and, if feasible, other early childhood programs:

- ✓ Developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records of preschool children
- ✓ Establishing channels of communication between school staff and their counterparts to facilitate coordination
- ✓ Conducting meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers to discuss the developmental and other needs of children
- ✓ Organizing and participating in joint transition-related training of school, Head Start, and where appropriate, other early childhood education program staff
- ✓ Linking the educational services provided by the LEA with those provided by Head Start agencies

See ESEA Section 1119

What does it look like?

- **Gwinnet County, GA** has used Title I to support a district transition specialist and transition teams in 25 Title I elementary schools.
- **Melrose, MA** used Title I to offer comprehensive screening to all 4-year-olds in the district, to identify at-risk children. One hundred percent of Title I funds were used for early childhood.
- Children from birth to age five attend all-day, early childhood learning centers in **Davenport, Iowa**. Title I supported infant and toddler classrooms. State grants, special education, Head Start funding and tuition supported integrated preschool classrooms in the Children's Villages.
- *The **Chicago-Child Parent Centers** provide comprehensive educational and family support services to low-income children at 13 sites in high-poverty neighborhoods. Title I has supported all program components.*