



# FEDERAL PROGRAMS MESSENGER

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NOVEMBER • 2015



## Schoolwide

For the past 50 years, since its inception in 1965, Title I has focused on improving the academic achievement of low-performing students in schools with high concentrations of children from low-income families, and provided supplemental federal funds to ensure all students have equitable opportunities to obtain a high-quality education, and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards.

Schools with a poverty level of at least 40 percent qualify to operate a schoolwide program, designed to improve the academic achievement of the lowest performing students. Although all students may participate in Title I-funded initiatives, and the entire program is allowed to maximize flexibility in using federal funds, schools should not lose sight of improving the academic achievement of the lowest-performing students, and of those at risk of failing to meet the state's academic standards. These students should continue to be the focus of the schoolwide programs, and all efforts should be concentrated in helping them in more innovative ways become proficient in meeting the state academic standards.

Based on the FY16 Designation list, soon to be released by the Office of Accountability, the following schools may begin to operate a schoolwide program immediately: Title I Priority Schools, Title I-eligible High School Priority Schools, Title I Focus Schools, Title I-eligible Focus Schools. To fulfill this requirement, the Office of Federal Programs, in collaboration with the Office of School Support, has publicized the Letter of Intent to participate in the Schoolwide Fast-Track process. If your school qualifies, and you intend to serve the school with Title I A funds in a schoolwide program, please email this letter to Debbie Pham [debbie.pham@sde.ok.gov](mailto:debbie.pham@sde.ok.gov) and Zada Farris [zada.farris@sde.ok.gov](mailto:zada.farris@sde.ok.gov), before you make revisions to your Title I budget.

Schoolwide Flexibility became a hot topic ever since USDE came out with more guidance in this regard in July 2015. There are three characteristics of the schoolwide flexibility that are essential to effective implementation:

1. The school must be a Title I schoolwide school. (A word of caution: Targeted Assistance schools and district-level initiatives cannot take advantage of the schoolwide flexibility.)
2. Services or activities to be provided with Title I funds are an identified need in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment of the school, and reflected in the written Schoolwide Plan. (This plan must be reviewed and updated annually.)

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## CALENDAR

■ **December 2-3, 2015:**  
**WIDA-Dynamic Differentiation  
for Linguistically Diverse  
Students Workshop**

**Francis Tuttle, Portland Campus**

English language learners need instruction that is differentiated to meet the needs of learners who are developing a second language while learning grade appropriate content. Participants will approach the idea of differentiation of language from an asset-based perspective recognizing that language learners bring many contributions to the school community. Participants will collaborate to customize instruction for ELLs utilizing the WIDA ELD framework. A maximum of 45 attendees can participate in the workshop.

[Click Here to Register](#)

■ **December 8-9, 2015:**  
**WIDA-ELD Standards  
in Action: Collaboration**

**Francis Tuttle, Portland Campus**

This workshop provides an overview of collaborative methods and models for planning, instruction, and assessment of ELLs using the WIDA ELD Standards. It is designed for teams, teacher pairs, or instructional coaches.

A maximum of 45 attendees can participate in the workshop.

[Click Here to Register](#)

■ **November 11th**

OSDE Closed - Veteran's Day

■ **November 26th-27th**

OSDE Closed - Thanksgiving



## Federal Q&A

**Q. I am the Federal Programs Director of a district that has only schoolwide schools. I budgeted expenses at the district level in Title I A and Title II A, which I thought would be allowable under the schoolwide flexibility. Why are these expenses rejected?**

**A.** Schoolwide is a Title I A site status, therefore schoolwide flexibility applies only at the site level, in schoolwide schools. Schoolwide flexibility is not applicable at the district level in Title I A, nor in Title II A, III A, VI B, X C.

### *Schoolwide* (Continued from page 1)

- The services or activities provided are educational in nature.

There are high chances that the meaning of the word “educational” will be stretched and turned inside-out, to reason that the proposed expenditures are indeed educational in nature. To alleviate future debates, here are some definitions that come straight from the dictionary:

**Educational** is defined as “serving to educate; instructive.” [The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition]

**To educate** is defined as “to provide with knowledge or training, especially through formal schooling; teach.” [The American Heritage Dictionary, Second Edition]

That being said, schools should be mindful when planning and proposing the educational activities in schoolwide programs, and ensure low achieving students are served.

Before moving forward, here is a word of caution that came from USDE this summer regarding schoolwide flexibility: “There are two situations in which an LEA’s use of Title I funds would likely not be supplemental, even if the LEA uses an equitable distribution of the non-Federal funds. As a result, the LEA would not be able to use Title I funds to operate a schoolwide program if:

- An LEA does not have sufficient non-Federal funds to provide even the most basic education program in all its schools.
- An LEA is required by State or local law to provide funding for a specific purpose for all students.” [Combined Federal Programs Summer Meeting ,July 30, 2015]

The Office of Federal Programs has provided and will continue to provide support and technical assistance in implementing the schoolwide flexibility in schoolwide schools, and hopes to see progress and improvement in the academic achievement of all students in schools across Oklahoma.

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