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Use of Title I Funds for Afterschool

January 2014 Technical Assistance Alert

The intent of Title I is for all children to become proficient in the State's academic achievement standards and to provide supplement supports for those students that are struggling to meet the State's standards. Afterschool programming can be an important component of helping students academically and closing the achievement gap in a school or LEA. Title I funds can be used in afterschool programs but not for all costs. Below are the 3 most common forms of afterschool programming using Title I funds:

1. In a Targeted Assistance Title I school, the school may offer an afterschool program for those students who are on the Title I caseload (those students that have been assessed by multiple means to be academically disadvantaged). In this case, Title I funds may be used to fund almost all aspect of the program as long as it is academic in nature.
2. In a Schoolwide Title I school, the school may offer an afterschool program for all of its students. In a Schoolwide model, all students are considered to be Title I students. Again, Title I funds may be used to fund almost all aspects of the program as long as it is academic in nature AND the strategy of providing extra academic supports through an afterschool program is outlined in the school's Schoolwide plan.
3. Some LEAs or schools operate 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs. LEAs or schools may use their funds as outlined above. If the program is associated with a Targeted Assistance school, then Title I funds may be used to fund academically-oriented services for the Title I caseload students only. If associated with a Schoolwide school, all students may participate but the funds are limited to providing the academic portion of the afterschool program – supplemental instruction, homework club, etc. If a LEA operates the afterschool program, then it must be operated as a Title I Targeted Assistance model unless all schools in the LEA are Schoolwides.

Title I funds may not be used as blanket support for a summer or afterschool program. The LEA should work in partnership with the program to determine what costs are allowable and under Title I and allocate expenses to particular high quality offerings. . Records, including time and effort if applicable, must be maintained to verify that the Title I funds are spent in accordance with the requirements outlined above.

Title I Investments Allowed for After School Programs

October, 2013 Technical Assistance Alert

While extended day activities (read “after school”) are allowed, indeed encouraged, by Title I, there are parameters of which one must be aware. Title I may only be used to support the academic component of extended time programs. While oversight of said academics is permitted, it must be prorated so as to align with the percentage (or less) of academic activities in relation to non-academic activities. Also, Title I dollars may not be used to administer extended time programs that have no Title I dollars paying for direct academic services to students, even in cases where said program includes an academic component.

Homework Clubs

October, 2014 Technical Assistance Alert

A basic tenet of Title I is to improve student academic achievement by using effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research and in doing so, “give primary consideration to providing extended learning time, such as an extended school year, before- and after-school, and summer programs and opportunities.” Homework clubs that enable students to have high quality instruction in an after-school setting is an allowable use of Title I funds. However, if the homework club is designed more like a study hall with little high quality instruction given or available, that is not an allowable use of Title I funds.