Title I, Part A Poverty Data Sources in Maine

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

ESEA Statute requires Title I, Part A funds to be allocated to School Administrative Units (SAUs) based on the distribution of children in low-income families.

State-Utilized Poverty Data Sources for Title I, Part A District-Level Allocations to SAUs

Data Source	Applicable SAUs	Context/ Details
SAIPE Census data	Large SAUs (towns with population of at or above 20k)	Maine receives allocation figures directly from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) based on the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) childhood poverty data from the Census Bureau. Then, Maine makes adjustments for hold harmless, charter schools, new/reorganized SAUs, small SAUs, neglected/delinquent students, and state-set aside requirements.
DC x 1.6	Small SAUs (towns with a census population below 20k)	Maine has opted to use an alternate method to allocate Title I, Part A funds as authorized in ESEA statute Section 1124(a)(2)(B)(iii). In 2002, Maine determined the most appropriate data collection to be the free meal student counts. In 2023, Maine shifted to using direct certification student counts with a 1.6 multiplier. To learn more details about the Title I state-level allocation process as a whole, the rationale and research for the poverty data decisions, and the definition of direct certification student counts, please watch the FY24 Title I Allocations Update webinar from April 2023.

SAU Selected Poverty Data Sources for Title I School-Level Rank & Distribution

When an SAU receives Title I, Part A funds, they are required to calculate school-level funding to Title I eligible schools according to the number of children from low-income families as described in ESEA Statute Section 1113(c). The SAU can only serve schools that have a poverty rate at or above 35% or at or above the district poverty average. **An SAU determines locally which poverty source best suits their needs from the options below** and can then select data from any month within the past school year as long as the data source remains consistent. This process is described as Rank & Distribution and is explained thoroughly in a Title IA Rank & Distribution Training webinar from June 2023.

Local Data Source Options for Title I Rank & Distribution		
- free meal student counts (Free) - free and reduced meal student counts (F&R) - direct certification student counts (DC) - direct certification student counts with a 1.6 multiplier (DC x 1.6)		
Note: The Alternate Economic Status Form **cannot** be used for Title I, Part A		
Program Type	**Data Source Options**	**Recommendations based on National School Lunch Programming (NSLP)**
Community Eligibility Provision	• DC • DC x 1.6	When a SAU has CEP and non-CEP schools, the SAU may use DC/DCx1.6 for CEP schools and Free/F&R for non-CEP schools OR the SAU may use DC/DCx1. for all schools in the Rank & Distribution process. When a SAU has only CEP schools, the SAU uses DC/DCx1.6 as no free and reduced meal forms are collected.
Special Provision II	• Free or F&R (from base year) • Free or F&R (updated with enrollment) • DC • DC x 1.6	SAUs can use the Free/F&R from the base year for four consecutive years OR can increase the student counts if the student enrollment has increased by utilizing the same poverty percentage from the base year for the schools in the Rank & Distribution process. SAUs can also opt to use DC/ DCx1.6.
Traditional NSLP	• Free • F&R • DC • DC x 1.6	SAUs collect Free/F&R forms on an annual basis and can use that data in the Rank & Distribution process. SAUs can also opt to use DC/DCx1.6.