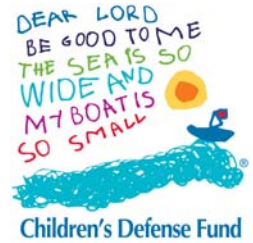


Children's Defense Fund

Title I Funding Revision Must Be a Priority for Real Education Reform



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Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is intended to provide education funding to states and school districts with high concentrations of low-income and disadvantaged students. Funding for Title I is distributed to states and school districts according to a complex and outdated formula. The unintended consequence of this formula is that it hurts small school districts with high concentrations of low-income students and disproportionately favors small states, states that already make significant investments in education, and large school districts.

How is this formula unfair?

Number Weighting

The Title I student count for a district is "weighted" in two ways: (1) based on the percentage of Title I eligible students in the district; or (2) based on the total number of Title I eligible students in the district. The use of "number weighting," favors large school districts at the expense of smaller districts with high poverty rates. Since the formula is used to calculate each district's share of a fixed pot of Title I funding, **any funding gain for one district comes at the expense of other districts.**

Average State Education Expenditures

Title I funding varies from state to state based on the average amount each state spends per pupil in its public schools. The formula is designed this way in order to account for state-to-state differences in the cost of providing schooling. In practice, however, it unfairly allocates funding based on state-to-state differences in wealth and political commitment to education. This hurts high poverty school districts in states that don't spend much on education.

Small State Minimum

The third cause of Title I funding inequities results from the fact that certain states get special treatment simply because they are small. The formula provides that no state will receive less than 0.3 percent of the total Title I appropriation, no matter how small its calculated share turns out to be. This "small state minimum" gives 12 small states with low levels of poverty a generous stake in the Title I program—and no reason to address the inequities in the funding formula.

**The table on the opposite page provides a snapshot of state inequities in per-pupil Title I allocations that result from the current Title I formula.*

What must be done?

A revision of the Title I funding formula is necessary to ensure that ALL children are given an equal opportunity to succeed no matter where they live. Since some states stand to gain more than others from changes to the Title I funding formula, revision faces significant political hurdles as the 111th Congress looks to reauthorize ESEA. However, in the world's richest nation, we cannot be satisfied with a system that inequitably funds the education of our most vulnerable children based on a child's zip code. As the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress pursue education reform, a revision of the Title I funding formula is absolutely necessary to ensure that ALL children are given equal opportunity to succeed.

For more information, visit www.childrensdefense.org or contact CDF at:

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State Title I Funding Per Eligible Student

	State	Percent of Students Eligible for Title I	Title I Grant Per Eligible Student
1.	Wyoming	11.6 %	\$ 3,149
2.	Vermont	12.2	2,885
3.	North Dakota	12.0	2,822
4.	Delaware	12.5	2,336
5.	New Hampshire	9.8	2,252
6.	Alaska	13.5	2,108
7.	District of Columbia	29.1	2,082
8.	New York	20.8	2,034
9.	South Dakota	15.2	2,004
10.	Maryland	11.0	1,866
11.	Illinois	17.5	1,850
12.	Massachusetts	15.7	1,847
13.	Connecticut	14.6	1,833
14.	Wisconsin	13.9	1,825
15.	Rhode Island	17.9	1,807
16.	Pennsylvania	17.3	1,796
17.	New Jersey	14.9	1,769
18.	Maine	14.8	1,763
19.	Hawaii	11.8	1,731
20.	Michigan	18.2	1,727
21.	Montana	17.4	1,663
22.	Nebraska	13.5	1,652
23.	Ohio	17.3	1,640
24.	Virginia	12.9	1,591
25.	Georgia	18.5	1,586
26.	Kansas	14.9	1,574
27.	Minnesota	11.6	1,532
28.	Colorado	13.8	1,531
29.	Indiana	15.9	1,515
30.	Kentucky	20.9	1,508
31.	Arkansas	22.3	1,477
32.	Nevada	14.3	1,472
33.	West Virginia	23.0	1,423
34.	New Mexico	23.3	1,387
35.	Tennessee	19.7	1,380
36.	Louisiana	26.3	1,373
37.	Florida	17.0	1,364
38.	Arizona	19.6	1,363
39.	South Carolina	20.7	1,356
40.	Texas	22.8	1,352
41.	Alabama	21.9	1,344
42.	Oregon	16.8	1,342
43.	Missouri	18.8	1,337
44.	Mississippi	27.2	1,318
45.	California	18.5	1,310
46.	Utah	10.1	1,298
47.	Washington	14.2	1,298
48.	Oklahoma	19.8	1,274
49.	Iowa	12.5	1,267
50.	North Carolina	19.4	1,261
51.	Idaho	14.6	1,225

Source: Rural School and Community Trust, January 2010 analysis of data provided by the Congressional Research Service.