



Decatur Public Schools

ESSA Title I, Part A SNS

Sec. 1118(b)(2)

Methodology

The following is a summary of the methodology used by Decatur Public Schools to allocate state/local funds to each Title I school in the district. This methodology is necessary to ensure that each building receives all the state/local funds it would otherwise receive if it were not receiving Title I money. School districts in the State of Michigan may distribute State and local funds using any methodology that results in that school district spending an amount of State and local funds per pupil in each Title I school that is equal to or greater than the average amount of State and local funds spent per pupil in non-Title I schools. At Decatur Public Schools, both the Davis Elementary School and the Decatur Jr. Sr. High School receive assistance through Title IA.

The methodology used by the district is based off several factors, however student enrollment is one of the most important. Staff are distributed amongst the two buildings so as to meet the needs of general and special education students. At the Davis Elementary School, we keep class size at manageable levels. Paraprofessional assistance is used mainly at this building to assistance the needs of students in grades K-3. Additional reading support is required for our K-3 students as required by ESSA, the State of Michigan, and local guidelines to assure that all students are reading at grade level by grade 3. Though staffing is determined by student population, we look at the needs of all students and apply additional resources and money for those needs.

In the Jr Sr High school, we keep in mind class size when considering staffing. However, we must also keep in mind graduation requirements and which courses are required and how we can offer elective courses for the students. We do offer online courses for the students in this building as well as dual enrollment at local community colleges. Due to the size of our district, only one principal is employed in each building. We do have a counselor for the Jr. Sr. High school as well as a Dean of Students.

Decisions regarding staffing for both buildings are made without regard to the receipt of federal Title I Part A dollars. Teacher staffing is determined based on enrollments and benchmarked against student-to-teacher ratios. These ratios are maintained consistently across buildings to the degree possible (given size differences both with respect to the overall building population and with respect how many sections of each grade level are possible).

Other staff configurations are subject to multiple measures, such as the individual student needs (LRE aides, 504 assistance, and class sizes if overloaded), age-related (for example providing more staff at the kindergarten level), the playground configuration (some buildings require more staff due to specific layouts), size of the building (custodial needs), the overall number of staff and students (secretarial), and so forth.

Materials and supplies provided to the buildings are also objectively determined early in the budget process, using a formulaic approach based on total pupil count. These supplies include teaching supplies, art, P.E., media, music, consumables, textbooks, screeners, assessments, and intervention tools.

Title I funds are budgeted and spent only after the School Improvement Plans for each building are developed and then brought forth for inclusion in the District Improvement Plan. Staff and materials purchased with federal funds are in essence layered on top of the budgets as developed as described above and are not substituted for any local or state funded items.

Therefore, our methodology to determine which buildings get “how much” is based on student enrollment, student need (for the improvement of reading and math proficiency), students at-risk, graduation requirements, and requirements to improve the teaching and learning process. The easiest way to calculate part of these budgets is to take the average districtwide per-pupil expenditures and multiply by the number of students in each school. A five percent variation is allowed for this calculation and we determine the amount per building annually. The Business Office works closely to determine this approximate calculation and adjustments may be necessary after the October student count. The calculation is made districtwide.

Decatur Public Schools publishes this methodology in a format that is understandable for our parents, students, school employees, the Board of Education, and the Community. Decatur Public Schools distributes to schools approximately all of the State and local funds available to it for current expenditures. This amount includes costs for administration, summer school, and personnel provided districtwide services.

By adhering to the summary above, Decatur Public Schools achieves compliance with Section 1118(b)2 of ESEA as Amended by ESSA: To demonstrate compliance with paragraph (1), a local educational agency shall demonstrate that the methodology used to allocate State and local funds to each school receiving assistance under this part ensures that such school receives all of the State and local funds it would otherwise receive if it were not receiving assistance under this part.

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