

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

APRIL 16, 2013

SUBJECT:

Revision of Board Policy DEC, "Selection of Title I Schools," Second Reading

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Board Policy DEC, "Selection of Title I Schools" defines the procedure to be used in the targeting of schools for participation in the federal Title I program. The identification (targeting) of schools for participation in the federal Title I program is based upon the following poverty criteria by grade span:

Elementary Schools	Greater than or equal to 35%
Middle Schools	Greater than or equal to 45%
High Schools	Greater than or equal to 60%

Schools within 2 percentage points of the threshold for its grade span that qualified the previous year would continue to be served in the Title I program.

All schools above 75% poverty must be served in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Part A, Section 1113.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Because of the district's focus on early intervention, the administration proposes to eliminate Title I, Part A funding to high schools that fall below 75% poverty. Over the past two years, Title I funds have been cut at the district level, and future cuts are imminent due to sequestration and federal budget cuts. This change in policy would mitigate cuts to elementary and middle schools and decrease the potential for diluting the effectiveness of Title I funding for the early grades.

This change in policy will cause Wagener-Salley High and Ridge Spring-Monett High to lose approximately \$110,000 and \$65,000, respectively, in Title I funds; however, the administration is exploring the use of state and local dollars to offset this reduction in funds.

Additionally, wording in the board policy concerning "school improvement" is inconsistent with the terminology used in South Carolina's Elementary and Secondary Act Waiver, which was approved by the US Department of Education on July 19, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the revised Board Policy DEC, "Selection of Title I Schools," Second Reading.

ATTACHMENT:

Recommended Revision of Board Policy DEC, "Selection of Title I Schools"

PREPARED BY:

King Laurence
Jeanie Glover

Policy DEC Selection of Title I Schools

Issued 11/06

Purpose: To provide the basic structure for selecting schools to receive Title I funds.

Method for targeting Title I schools

It is the objective of the board to provide equal educational opportunities for all children within the district.

The board regards as a public trust any funds allocated to the district in federal aid. The district's method of targeting the most at-risk schools for the receipt of federal Title I funds seeks to ensure that all students are provided the opportunity to reach challenging academic standards as directed by federal Title I legislation.

The following procedures will be used for targeting schools for participation in the federal Title I program.

- All schools with a concentration of poverty that is equal to or greater than 75 percent must receive Title I funds, and these funds must be apportioned at a higher per pupil allocation than schools served with less than 75 percent.
- Elementary schools with a concentration of poverty that is equal to or greater than 35 percent; middle schools with a concentration of poverty that is equal to or greater than 45 percent; and high schools with a concentration of poverty that is equal to or greater than ~~60~~ 75 percent should be targeted to receive a portion of Title I funds to be apportioned accordingly.
- Any school with a concentration of poverty that is 60 percent or higher should receive Title I funds at a per student allocation that is among the highest per student allocations appropriated, in an effort to apportion the greatest amount of financial resources to schools where the concentration of poverty is relatively high. ("Relatively high" is defined as being significantly higher than other eligible schools.) Any school with a concentration of poverty that is less than 60 percent should receive a per student allocation apportioned in descending order. For example, a per student allocation for a school with a poverty index of 50 percent up to 59 percent should receive a higher per student allocation than a school with a poverty index of 40 percent up to 49 percent or 35 percent up to 39 percent.

- Schools with a concentration of poverty that is within two percentage points of the threshold for its grade span that qualified the previous year will be served at an apportioned descending percent.

A school that receives Title I funds will be held to assessment standards as delineated in the Title I standards, assessments and accountability document. Progress toward meeting those standards will be reported to the board during the board's pre-budgeting Title I workshop in March-April each year. The standards require that all students including economically disadvantaged students meet the rigorous state student academic achievement standards. The schools not meeting the Title I standards will be required to develop a ~~program improvement plan~~ Challenge to Achieve Plan, and will be held to the ~~corrective action~~ requirements as specified in Principle 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Act Waiver submitted by the state of South Carolina to the US Department of Education and approved on July 19, 2012. ~~Section 1116 of Public Law 103-382-107-110, Title I, "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001".~~

The administrative division will provide technical assistance to Title I schools classified as Focus and Priority ~~"not making adequate yearly progress" or in "school improvement"~~ as determined by the state department of education through its annual school level Title I evaluation process.

The administration will prepare the relevant achievement data and preliminary school allocations as prescribed at the outset of this policy, as well as administer the regulatory and compliance components of the policy and the policies in the Title I law. (The policy will be updated as needed to keep it current with any changes that may occur in Title I legislation.)

Adopted 11/9/71; Revised 5/27/97, 9/11/01, 10/9/01, 5/21/02, 5/27/03, 11/28/06

Legal references:

Federal law:

20 U.S.C. Sections 6301, et seq. (as amended); 34 C.F.R Section 200 - Title I.

The School District of Aiken County