



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Director of the Department of Education

Dear Title I Program Coordinators:

In response to COVID 19, the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued nationwide waivers to allow all students to receive free meals during SY 2021-22. As a result, many districts do not have National School Lunch Program (NSLP) data ordinarily collected and used to [rank and serve](#) Title I-A eligible schools.

On January 12, 2022 the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [released an updated Fact Sheet](#) that describes six options available to districts for determining poverty percentages for within-district allocations for the 2022-23 school year **if NSLP data from SY 2020-2021 and SY 2021-2022 are not available:**

1. Medicaid or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) data or a composite of data from these two sources from SY 2021-2022;
2. The best available NSLP data, which may be from SY 2019-2020;
3. Counts of children identified through [direct certification](#) from 2020-21 or 2021-22, which may be multiplied by 1.6 to account for the lack of household applications;
4. A combination of the best available NSLP data from SYs 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022;
5. A composite of the NSLP, Medicaid, and TANF data listed in the previous bullets; or
6. Data from a poverty survey conducted by the LEA.

Given the current guidance, options 2, 3 and 6 may be the clearest and easiest for districts to use when ranking and serving schools. Please note that ED has not provided clarity around the composite options. **Districts should also be aware that U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations on meal pattern guidelines for school nutrition programs indicate there will most likely be no further extension of the waivers to allow universal free meals for students for SY 2022-23 and a return to free and reduced lunch price applications is expected.**

The Federal Systems team stands ready to support districts as they determine which of these options best meets their needs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our Title I-A program specialists with questions or for additional support:

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Additional Resources

- [Within District Allocations Under Title I, Part A](#) (ED Non-Regulatory Guidance, February 2022)
- [Updated Fact Sheet on USDA Waiver](#) (ED, January 12, 2022)
- [Direct Certification Guidance and Tools](#) (School Nutrition Programs, ODE)
- [Rank and Serve under Title I-A](#) (ODE Quick Reference Brief)
- [Oregon Federal Funds Guide](#) (ODE)