This reference guide highlights key changes to Title I programs in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In general, changes under ESSA take effect at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. District leaders should consider these changes when planning for activities funded through their 2017-18 (FY18) Title I grants. As of November 2016, the U.S. Department of Education is developing final regulations that will govern Title I programs. We will share details as they become available. For additional information, visit Massachusetts’ [ESSA website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/essa/default.html) or email FederalGrantPrograms@mass.gov.

**Use of Title I funds:**

ESSA emphasizes that Title I funds may be used to help provide:

* **Well-rounded** educational experiences
* **Early childhood** **programs**, and transition from PK to elementary school
* **Dual- or concurrent-enrollment programs** in secondary schools
* Such supports as **behavioral, counseling & mental health programs, mentoring, and access to advanced coursework** (in Schoolwide programs)

In addition, ESSA requires the use of **“evidence-based”** supports & interventions in low performing schools and allows districts to **transfer (“flex”) up to 100%** of Title IIA and Title IVA funds into Titles I, IIA, III, IVA, and/or V.

**FY18 Title I allocations:**

* **Increased state reservation for school improvement** from 4% to 7%
* Turnaround grant funding from USED eliminated
* As a result, district Title I allocations for FY18 (year 1 of ESSA) may fall below their statutory hold harmless levels. Normal hold harmless rules apply beginning in FY19
* ESE will share preliminary FY18 Title I allocations with districts in spring 2017

**Title I Schoolwide program waivers:**

**State may waive 40% poverty threshold** for Schoolwide programs upon request and demonstration that a Schoolwide program would best serve needs of students

**Parent notifications:**

* Must notify parents of all students in Title I schools oftheir **right to request teacher qualifications**
* Must **notify parents** if their child is taught for 4 or more weeks by **a teacher who does not meet licensure requirements** – effective SY2017-18
* **Posting report card to district website meets distribution requirements** – effective SY2018-19

**Equitable services for private schools:**

* Proportional share of **funds for private school services calculated based on total amount** of district grant, before any reservations
* State required to **notify private schools of amounts** available
* State required to **identify ombudsman** to oversee equitable services for private schools

**Children in foster care (changes effective 12/10/2016):**

Districts must **work with Department of Children & Families (DCF) to ensure stability** for children in foster care, and plan to **provide transportation** for students who remain in their school of origin. Additional details [here](https://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=24160).

**Supplement not Supplant:**

* Title I funds must continue to supplement state and local spending but method for testing compliance has changed – **no more individual cost test**
* District must instead demonstrate that methodology used to allocate state & local funds to Title I schools results in **each Title I school receiving state & local funding it would receive if not a Title I school**