Title I Schoolwide Program Justification, Assurances, and Waiver Request\*

\* Waiver request is applicable only to districts seeking waiver of 40 percent poverty threshold for a proposed or existing Schoolwide program school that is below 40 percent poverty on the School Ranking page of the current grant application.

**Instructions**

1. Review required components of a Title I Schoolwide Program Plan (Section A).
2. Review annual evaluation requirements for Schoolwide programs (Section B).
3. Provide a complete response to justification question (Section C).
4. Complete 40% poverty waiver request information, if applicable (Section D).
5. Sign and email a pdf copy of this assurance statement to your Title I liaison at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education within the same timeframe as submission of the district’s Title I application.

**A. Requirements of a Title I Schoolwide Program Plan**

Under Section [1114(b-d)](https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, a Schoolwide program plan must be:

* Developed with the involvement of parents and other members of the community to be served and individuals who will carry out the plan, including teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, and administrators of programs included;
* Regularly monitored and revised as necessary based on student needs;
* Developed in coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and local services, resources, and programs;
* Based on a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school that takes into account information on the academic achievement of children in relation to the challenging State academic standards, particularly those children who are failing or most at risk of failing to meet those standards;
* Inclusive of description of the strategies the school will use to:
	+ Provide opportunities for all children to meet the challenging State academic standards, particularly those most at risk of not meeting those standards; and
	+ Strengthen the academic program of the school, increase the amount and quality of learning time, and provide an enriched and accelerated curriculum, which may include programs, activities, and courses necessary to provide a well-rounded education.

**B. Annual Evaluation Process for Schoolwide Programs**

* The school must evaluate annually the outcomes and the plan’s implementation to determine whether the academic achievement of all students, and particularly of the school’s low-achieving students, improved; whether the goals and objectives contained in the plan were achieved; and if the plan is still appropriate as written.
* In addition, the Schoolwide plan must describe how the school will provide individual student assessment results, including the interpretation of those results, to parents of the student; and describe how the results of annual evaluation of the effectiveness of this Schoolwide plan will be used to make revisions to the plan to ensure continuous improvement of students in this Schoolwide program.

**C. Justification** (provide complete response below)

1) How will a schoolwide approach be more beneficial than a targeted assistance approach in meeting the educational needs of all students at the applicant school, particularly those students farthest from meeting the state’s challenging academic standards?

2) How will the district monitor and assess the schoolwide approach at the applicant school in order to determine its overall effectiveness (i.e. the impact on student achievement and for meeting other school and district improvement goals)?

**D. Waiver Request (complete only if school’s poverty percentage is less than 40 percent)**

*Under Section 1114(a)(1)(B) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the State may waive the requirement that a school have at least 40 percent poverty to be eligible to run a Schoolwide program.*

By providing the school’s poverty percentage below, the district requests that the poverty percentage requirement be waived to allow the applicant school to operate a Title I Schoolwide program to better meet the needs of its students for the reasons stated in the Justification section above.

The school’s poverty percentage is currently       percent.

**E. Statement of Assurances**

The district has reviewed the Schoolwide Plan (or School Improvement Plan or related Charter School document that incorporates such a plan) for the school and can verify that the plan adequately addresses the required components of a Schoolwide Plan and an annual evaluation process as outlined above.

| **District** |       |
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|  **Applicant School** |       |
| **Principal** |       |
|  |  |
| **Authorized Signatory/ Superintendent** |  |
| **Typed Name** |       |
| **Title** |       |
| **Date** |       |