



Poverty Measures for Non-public Schools

How to calculate the number of eligible non-public school students:

OPTION 1

Use the same poverty measure used to count eligible public school students

For example, if the LEA uses free and reduced-price lunch (FRPL) program participation as its data source and the non-public school participates in the FRPL program, the data should be used to count eligible non-public school students. ED's guidance says an LEA also may use a comparable data source, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or a tuition scholarship program, that uses a similar income eligibility threshold.

OPTION 2

Conduct a survey of enrolled private school families to obtain comparable data

Non-public school officials may survey enrolled families to obtain income data which may be applied to the threshold used to determine FRPL eligibility. Data should be extrapolated if not all non-public school families respond to the survey. The survey must, to the extent possible, protect the identity of families of non-public school students.

OPTION 3

Use proportionality to apply the low-income percentage of public school children to the number of private school children residing in each attendance area

For example, if 50% of the public school students residing in a given attendance area are from low-income families, then 50% of non-public school students residing in the same area may be assumed to be from low-income families.

OPTION 4

Use an equated measure of income that correlates to the measure used to count public school children

For example, by determining the percentage of public school children eligible for TANF who are also eligible for FRPL, an LEA may assume that an equal percentage of TANF-eligible non-public school students would also qualify for FRPL.

KEEP IN MIND

- When collecting poverty data about non-public school students, shared information should protect the participants' identities. Officials need only to provide information about the non-public school name, household income (or other poverty indicator), student address, unique student identifier, and current grade level. Names are not necessary.
- Non-public school poverty data may be collected either every year or every other year. The frequency of data collection, as well as the data source itself, may vary from non-public school to non-public school within an LEA.