

## FAQ on Indiana Title I Preschools



### ***Eligible Purchases and Expenditures***

#### **What supplies, equipment, and technology can be purchased with Title I funds?**

All Title I funds used for preschool must meet the same reasonable, allocable, and necessary requirement as with school-level programs. Approval of items for a district or school level program will be done on a case by case basis.

In determining what items can be purchased, the school or LEA must determine the size, scope, and philosophy of the program. A smaller program may only opt to provide a preschool program for 2 hours/day 3, times/week. The program may be geared for kindergarten readiness for a few identified students. Within the size, scope and philosophy, the school or LEA would likely opt to purchase items that can be used within that time for the intentional purpose of developing pre-kindergarten readiness skills, such as math or literacy manipulatives.

On the other hand, a school may opt to develop or expand a program to a larger scale. A larger program may opt to offer 4 hours/day, 5 days a week and include all eligible students. The students will be attending longer and the needs of the group will vary. Within the size, scope, and philosophy, the school or LEA would likely opt to purchase a variety of items that will address the various academic, social, and emotional levels and interests of the students. For example, theatre kits, puppets, pretend play, rocking chairs, dress up clothing, art supplies, outdoor equipment, math and literacy manipulatives, or technology would be allowable supplies that would meet the intent of the program.

Schools or LEAs may opt to include costs for parental involvement or professional development. Training and communication to both parents and professional staff support the goals of a Title I preschool.

#### **Can Title I funds be used to pay for snacks for students attending Title I –funded preschool?**

A federal grant available from the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which is administered from IDOE, is available for preschool programs. Three meals, including one snack, are available for reimbursement. More information on this opportunity is available at

<http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/child-and-adult-care-food-program>

#### **May an LEA or school use Title I funds to identify eligible preschool children?**

Generally, it is the responsibility of an LEA and schools to use information it already has available to identify at-risk children. However, if an LEA has no existing assessment data for preschool children, Title I funds may be used for identifying these children.

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### **May a portion of Title I funds be used to provide preschool participants with comprehensive services?**

Yes. If preschool children have need for health, nutrition, and other social services, a portion of Title I funds in a targeted assistance school may be used to address those needs, if appropriate, based on a comprehensive needs assessment and if funds are not reasonably available from other public or private sources.

### **Must Title I preschools meet the supplement-not-supplant requirement?**

Yes. Title I preschools must still supplement and not supplant district responsibilities. The “supplement not supplant” regulation means that Title I funds and Title I services must supplement and not supplant all regular school programming. In other words, a school may not use Title I funds to perform a service that would normally be paid for with local or state dollars.

### **If appropriate facilities are not available to house a preschool program in the district or a school, how might preschool services be provided?**

If appropriate district or school facilities are not available for preschool services, the district and school should consider working with children in existing childcare programs such as Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or a program funded under the Child Care Development Block Grant, or a site conducting a family literacy program.

Preschool services may be provided at any location that other Title I services may be provided, including public school buildings, public libraries, community centers, privately-owned facilities (including facilities owned by faith-based organizations, the child’s home, and other appropriate settings).

The cost to rent or lease space in privately-owned buildings is allowable if the space is necessary to ensure the success of the program, appropriate space is not available to the grantee, and the cost is reasonable.