



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234  
P-12 Education – Office of Accountability

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Office of ESSA-Funded Programs  
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## **Title I Schoolwide Program Eligibility Waiver Request For schools below 40 percent poverty threshold**

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Title I Schoolwide programs allow eligible schools to use Title I funds to support comprehensive reforms that improve the entire educational program of the school rather than direct funds only to eligible students in a Targeted Assistance program.

Section [1114\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires a Title I school to have at least 40% poverty to be eligible to operate a Schoolwide program. ESEA section [1114\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) permits a State Education Agency (SEA) to waive the 40% poverty threshold requirement, after taking into account how a Schoolwide program will best serve the needs of the students in the school while improving academic achievement and other factors. The Title I Schoolwide Program justification, assurances, and request is applicable only to Title I schools seeking waiver of 40 percent poverty threshold.

### **Instructions**

- A. *Review required components of a Title I Schoolwide Program Plan.*
- B. *Review annual evaluation requirements for Schoolwide programs.*
- C. *Provide a complete response to justification question.*
- D. *Complete 40% poverty waiver request information.*
- E. *Complete Statement of Assurances.*

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

Under Section [1114](#) 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;*

- *Developed during a 1-year period, unless the local educational agency (LEA) determines, in consultation with the school, that less time is needed to develop and implement the Schoolwide program;*
- *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 LEA 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 LEA improvement goals)?

**D. Waiver Request for schools with poverty below 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 LEA 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 LEA 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 in Sections A and B above.*

**LEA** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal** \_\_\_\_\_

  

**Authorized  
Signatory/  
Superintendent** \_\_\_\_\_

**Typed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_