

# NOTICE

## **Revised Preliminary Title I Allocations for 2003-04**

On June 19, 2003, after SED posted preliminary Title I allocations for LEAs and charter school LEAs, the U.S. Department of Education transmitted revised State allocations. New York State's overall allocation decreased by almost five million dollars, with allocations for nearly every district showing some change. The revised allocations are the result of the changes made at the federal level. These revised preliminary Title I allocations will allow LEAs to plan for the 2003-04 school year. Final allocations are scheduled to be determined in December 2003, and LEAs will be notified. All LEAs should expect slight adjustments when they receive notice of their final allocations. However, LEAs with resident poverty students attending a charter school LEA may incur significant changes to their final 2003-04 Title I allocations.

## **Use of Census 2000 Data for Title I Allocations**

The 2003-04 school year is the first year in which the USDOE used Census 2000 population and poverty data to calculate Title I LEA allocations. The Census counts of children in poverty ages 5-17 is the primary factor used in determining the allocations for LEAs in New York State. Local data, including free and reduced-price school lunch counts, are not used to determine LEA allocations.

The use of this 2000 Census data has had a significant impact on LEA and charter school LEA allocations. According to the Census, the number of New York State children in poverty has decreased from 765,000 to 674,000, and over 450 public school districts were reported to have less children in poverty when compared to the 1990 Census. Thus, while New York's overall Title I appropriation has increased, there are many districts where allocations have decreased compared to last year.

In order to receive Title I funds, an LEA must have at least ten "formula" children, and the number of those children must exceed two percent of the LEA's total population ages 5-17. Again, this determination is based on 2000 Census data and not local free and reduced-price school lunch information. Each charter school Title I allocation is calculated based on free and reduced price school lunch counts using a USDOE-prescribed formula that takes those counts and turns them into an equivalent Title I "poverty" number.

USDOE-calculated LEA allocations must be adjusted by SED to account for statutory set-asides for State administration and school improvement, statutory hold-harmless provisions as they apply to LEAs, changes in district formulation, and charter school LEAs. By necessity, the adjusted LEA allocations are lower than those released by the USDOE earlier in the year.

Questions regarding the revised Title I allocations may be directed to Mary Ann Awad, Manager of NYSUT Research at (518) 213-6000 ext. -6639 or Tony Colantonio, Assistant in Research/Educational Services at (518) 213-6000 ext.-6641