



New Hampshire

Department of Education **Technical Advisory**

*Serving New Hampshire's Education Community*

School Choice Guidance

Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

## New Hampshire School Choice Guidance

***Is a district required to offer a non-Title I School In Need of Improvement (SINI) as a choice option for students enrolled in a Title I SINI?***

A district *should* offer all available school choice options including non-Title I SINIs as a school choice to students enrolled in a Title I SINI. However, the New Hampshire Department of Education does not *require* non-Title I SINIs to be offered as a choice option. If a district decides to include a non-Title I SINI as a school choice option, the district must determine a reasonable number of students that can transfer to this school.

- When all district schools within the same grade range are SINIs, the following options are available to the district with regards to school choice:
  - non-Title I schools (SINI or not) are offered as a choice and the district can access their Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Part A school choice set-aside funds to support the cost of transportation of participating students.
  - School choice not offered, the district must:
    - (a) Have an action plan with a goal of exploring reasons why families may have wanted school choice and address the reasons to the best of their ability through other means approved by the Education Commissioner. Examples of components to a plan could be:
      - *Example 1: A survey is conducted that finds parents/guardians express concerns regarding the culture and climate within the school especially towards the welcoming of parents. This could result in a component of the plan to develop a subcommittee of the SINI team with many parent/guardian representatives to focus on examining and improving culture and climate.*
      - *Example 2: Students and families are seeking enrichment activities for students, some of which are offered in the other district schools. This could result in a component of the plan to increase afterschool enrichment activities to align with or expand beyond the other school offerings.*
    - and**
    - (b) Continue to allow students (and their siblings) that have transferred under Federal and State school choice policy during a previous school year to attend the school of choice. The district can access their ESEA Title I, Part A school choice set-aside funds to support the cost of transportation of these participating students.
  - When schools within the same grade range as the Title I SINI are not SINI (Title I or non-Title I) they must be offered as a school option in accordance with the ESEA. In these cases ESEA guidance must be followed in relation to the maximum number of students allowed to transfer to the choice school.

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*Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.*

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***If a child has been enrolled in a Title I school through school choice, but that school is now a Title I SINI, can the student remain there? If so, can Title I funds be used to pay for transportation or is the district responsible?***

- If a student has been attending a Title I school of choice that is now designated a Title I SINI, the student can be granted an exception, allowing him/her the opportunity to remain enrolled in the Title I SINI and ESEA Title I, Part A school choice set-aside funds can be used to support the cost of transportation.

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