

Amendment offered by Rep. Thompson

Miscellaneous/Other Laws, note 21, insert this additional study as section 9204 of the bill, and redesignate other sections accordingly:

SEC. 9204. Study on the Title I Formula.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

- (1) Part A of Title I provides funding to local educational agencies through four separate formulas that have been added to the law over time, and which have “distinct allocation patterns, providing varying shares of allocated funds to different types of local educational agencies or States,” according to a 2015 report from the Congressional Research Service.
- (2) Minimal effort has been made by the Federal government to determine if the four formulas are adequately delivering funds to local educational agencies with the highest district wide poverty averages.
- (3) The formulas for distributing Targeted Grants and Education Finance Incentive grants use two weighting systems, one based on the percentage of children included in the determination of grants to local educational agencies (percentage weighting), and another based on the absolute number of such children (number weighting). Both weighting systems have five quintiles with a roughly equal number of children in each quintile. Whichever of these weighting systems results in the highest total weighted formula child count for a local educational agency is the weighting system used for that agency in the final allocation of Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grant funds.
- (4) The Congressional Research Service has also said the number weighting alternative is generally more favorable to large local educational agencies with much larger geographic boundaries and larger counts of eligible children than smaller local educational agencies with smaller counts, but potentially higher percentages, of eligible children, because large local educational agencies have many more children in the higher weighted quintiles.
- (5) In local educational agencies that are classified by the National Center for Education Statistics as “Large City”, 47 percent of all students attend schools with 75 percent or higher poverty.

(b) Study.

- (1) In General.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall complete a study on the effectiveness of the four existing title I formulas to deliver funds to the most economically disadvantaged communities.
- (2) Contents.—Such study shall include—
 - (A) an analysis of the distribution of title I funds under the four current formulas;
 - (B) an analysis of how title I funds are distributed among local educational agencies in each of the 12 locale types classified by the National Center on Education Statistics.
 - (C) the extent to which the four formulas unduly benefit or unduly disadvantage any of the local educational agencies described in subparagraph (B);

- (D) the extent to which the four formulas unduly benefit or unduly disadvantage high-poverty eligible school attendance areas in the local educational agencies described in subparagraph (B);
 - (E) the extent to which the four formulas unduly benefit or unduly disadvantage lower population local educational agencies with relatively high percentages of districtwide poverty;
 - (F) the impact of number weighting and percentage weighting in the formulas for distributing Targeted Grants and Education Finance Incentive Grants on each of the local educational agencies described in subparagraph (B);
 - (G) The impact of number weighting and percentage weighting on targeting Title I-A funds to eligible school attendance areas with the highest concentrations of poverty in local educational agencies described in subparagraph (B), and local educational agencies described in subparagraph (B) with higher percentages of districtwide poverty;
 - (H) an analysis of other studies and reports produced by public and non-public entities examining the distribution of title I funds under the four current formulas; and
 - (I) recommendations, as appropriate, for amending or consolidating the existing formulas to better target title I funds to the most economically disadvantaged communities and most economically disadvantaged eligible school attendance areas.
- (3) Public Dissemination.—The Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall widely disseminate the findings of the study conducted under this section—
- (A) in a timely fashion;
 - (B) to—
 - (i) the public; and
 - (ii) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and
 - (C) through electronic transfer and other means, such as posting to the website of the Institute of Education Sciences or the Department of Education.