

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION ON A FAIR TITLE I FUNDING FORMULA

Resolution Summary

Created in 1965 with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I funding was designed to provide additional educational resources to those students living in poverty. Today Title I is the single largest elementary and secondary education program operated by the federal government. In 2009 more than \$14 billion dollars in Title I funding was allocated to states as part of the regular (non ARRA) fiscal year appropriation.

Actual Title I allocations per child on a state to state basis, however, are dramatically, and unfairly uneven. The funding gap between states in this critical source of federal funds is as much or more than \$400 per child. As states focus on the challenges of educating all students to the highest standards and ensuring that our children have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive adults, such significant funding gaps in the primary source of federal funds for education are simply unfair.

The Council of State Government calls on Congress to restore fairness to the Title I funding formula by raising the floor for all states. While differences in the cost of education and the amount of poverty both within and among states should still be accounted for, Congress should make sure that students living in all states receive a fair and equal funding allocation.

Additional Resource Information

“Secret Recipes Revealed: Demystifying the Title I-A Funding Formulas” –Center for American Progress, Raegen T. Miller, August, 2009.

CSG Management Directives

Management Directive #1: Promote efforts to create and sustain a funding formula that is fair and effective for all states.

Management Directive #2: CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG’s website and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

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WHEREAS, created in 1965, Title I Funding is the primary source of federal funds utilized by states to educate students who live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Title I formula distributes funds to states such that significant gaps between states of as much or more than \$400 per student exist; and

WHEREAS, the higher costs of educating children from poverty are well documented; and

WHEREAS, states bear the primary responsibility for ensuring that all students are educated to the highest standards so that they can become productive adults;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments calls on Congress to create a fair funding floor in the Title I formula so that every student, living in every state, receives an equal share of Title I resources.

Adopted this ____ Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Meeting in La Quinta, California.

Gov. Joe Manchin III
CSG President

Sen. Bart Davis
CSG Chairman