



Federal Program Monitoring and Support Updates January, 2018

2016 CENSUS POVERTY DATA BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) issues Census data that will be used to calculate Title I, Part A funds for the upcoming school year. The data is produced by the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program of the U.S. Census Bureau or SAIPE. As described in the [U.S. Census Bureau's FAQs](#), “[SAIPE uses] statistical models to create the estimates. The models relate state and county estimates of income and poverty from the American Community Survey (ACS) to other indicators of income and poverty. These indicators are based on summary data from federal income tax returns, SNAP benefits data (formerly known as Food Stamp Program data), decennial census data, postcensal population estimates, Supplemental Security Income reciprocity, and economic data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). These estimates are then combined with direct estimates from the ACS sample to provide figures which are more precise than either set alone.”

It is important to remember that Census poverty data does not equate in all instances to poverty data that may be collected through other means. The following information is also provided in the [U.S. Census Bureau's FAQs](#):

8. Why does the SAIPE estimate not match the Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch (FRPL) count for my school district?

Free and Reduced-Priced Lunch (FRPL) numbers use a different income threshold than the SAIPE estimate, and are therefore not comparable. The SAIPE program poverty estimates are based on the official measure of poverty as defined by the federal government. FRPL program counts, although informative about the economic status of a school district, will not match the official federal poverty measure. First, FRPL has different income levels for eligibility: 130% for free and 185% for reduced-priced lunches. In addition, FRPL eligibility is based on the income guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For the 2016 SAIPE estimates, the official Census Bureau poverty threshold for a family of four containing two related children under age 18 was \$24,339 compared with \$24,600 set by the 2017 poverty guidelines.

To review the full-version of the FAQs, go to: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/faq.html#par_textimage_8. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at donna.brown@dpi.nc.gov.

STAFF CHANGES

In December we had a new member join the Federal Program team. James Popp recently joined the Division where he serves as Program Administrator responsible for serving and supporting charter schools in the four regions in the western part of the state. Previously, James has held school level

positions that include teaching and administrative leadership. Before he began his career in education, James was a Behavior Management Specialist in Indiana, Education Coordinator for the Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center, as well as a Deputy Clerk for the Randolph County Clerk of Superior Court.

James attended North Carolina A&T State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in history and a Master's degree in history education. James currently attends the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where he earned a post-master's certificate in school administration and is currently working toward completing an Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in May 2018. He currently lives in Asheboro, NC with his wife and daughter.

We also wanted to provide our Northwest and Southeast Region LEAs with an update regarding the current vacant Program Administrator positions in those regions. Last week we posted the two currently vacant positions for Program Administrators. One of the two positions, when filled, will serve and support the Northwest Region (Talbot Troy has been reassigned to the North Central Region), and the second position will serve and support the Southeast Region (currently supported by Alex Charles in the interim). The application period for these positions close January 31st at 5:00pm. We hope to have these two positions filled by the close of February.

Finally, effective January 29, 2018, Dr. Chris Vecchione will serve as the Assistant Director for the Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division. Chris had been serving as the Section Chief for the Cross-Program team and Interim Section Chief for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers team. As always, our goal is to organize the work of our division to best support your local programs. We believe Chris's oversight of both teams under one unit will ensure that we can continue to meet that goal.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT STATE PLAN

North Carolina submitted its plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on September 18, 2017. On December 14, 2017, the U.S. Department of Education requested additional or clarifying information as part of the approval process for North Carolina's plan. The Peer Review Notes are publicly available [HERE](#).

Staff at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is working to provide a revised copy of the ESSA State Plan and has requested an extension to February 5, 2018, to resubmit the plan for review and approval.

NCSTAR

As promised, the transfer to the new District NCStar Portal occurred over the holiday break so that it would cause very little disturbance to the work of schools and districts. A video showing the new version of the district platform will go up at www.ncstar.weebly.com during the first week of February. In addition, monthly webinars are being created to assist schools with their plans. Registration for these webinars will always be on the homepage of the Weebly. After surveying the state, regional trainings will be conducted in April, 2018. These trainings will consist of both beginner sessions as well as Q&A sessions for more experienced users. Registration information for

these regional trainings will go out in late February. NCStar is now being used by over 1,800 schools across North Carolina as the tool for managing continuous school improvement processes. If you know a district representative that should be included in the monthly NCStar Burst newsletters please email Alessandro.Montanari@dpi.nc.gov.

MOU FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION DATA

Each year, the Title I office completes an MOU for the specific purpose of providing local federal program directors with access to school nutrition information in order to complete the annual Eligible School Summary Report (ESSR) and determine school allotments for the Title I funding application. The 2017-18 MOU is posted at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/>. As you plan for the 2018-19 school year, please email Richard Trantham at Richard.trantham@dpi.nc.gov if changes or updates are needed to the list of directors included in the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the office of School Nutrition Services.