

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Title I, Part A Coordinators

FROM: Jewell Stanley
Director, Office of Federal and State Accountability

DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: Release of 2024 Census Data for School Year 2026–27 Title I, Part A Allocations

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates regarding allocations under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The U.S. Department of Education (USED) will use 2024 Census data to calculate school-year (SY) 2026–27 allocations under Title I, Part A of ESSA.

Please find the attached table that shows the 2024 population and poverty estimates for the local educational agencies (LEAs) in South Carolina, which the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) released in January 2026. These data are also available at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

The Census data estimates are based on a statistical model that incorporates information from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, administrative records taken from Federal income tax returns and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the 2020 decennial Census, updates to population estimates that the Census Bureau may have completed since the 2020 decennial census, data on Supplemental Security Income recipients, and economic data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The Census Bureau has established a challenge period for LEAs to review the 2024 LEA poverty and population data for certain non-statistical errors. These errors are those that the Census Bureau may have made in: (1) processing input data or running the estimation models/programs; or (2) in preparing or processing information to define geographic boundaries (e.g., school district boundaries).

This challenge period ends on March 27, 2026. Based on the two factors outlined in the previous paragraph, an LEA official may contact the Small Area Income and Poverty

Estimates (SAIPE) Branch at the Census Bureau for further information about how to challenge these data.

To obtain information on the process an LEA needs to follow to challenge these data, please contact the SAIPE Branch at 301-763-3193 or sehds.saipe@census.gov.

When sending an e-mail, include your name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and organization affiliation. More information and guidance concerning the Census Bureau's challenge procedures are available at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/contact/challenges.html>

Information about the data sources and the methodology used to prepare these data is available at:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about.html>

The list of LEAs used for the 2024 Census estimates is based on the SY 2024–25 school district boundary survey conducted by the Census Bureau in collaboration with the South Carolina district mapping coordinator. The LEAs on this list include only “regular” school districts that have geographic boundaries. The list does not include, for example, special school districts that a State recognizes as LEAs, such as charter schools. These LEAs do not require “corrections” to the Census Bureau’s boundary survey data; rather, the ESEA and 34 CFR §200.72 require an SEA to adjust the SY 2026–27 Title I, Part A LEA allocations that USED determines to accommodate new or special LEAs not included on the Census Bureau’s SY 2024–25 list.

Please contact Jennifer Rhodes at jrhodes@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-8110 with any questions.