

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Comparability?

Comparability is a fiscal requirement intended to demonstrate how a local school system is using Title I funds to supplement, and not supplant, non-federal funds that would otherwise be used for authorized activities under Title I, Part A. If all of the schools in a grade span are Title I schools, meeting Comparability means that the district provides services in the higher poverty Title I schools that are at least comparable to the services the district provides in the lower poverty Title I schools. A district is comparable if it implements a district-wide salary schedule and has procedures that ensure equivalence among schools in the allocation of staff, curriculum materials and instructional supplies. A comparability study compares the distribution of state and local resources among the schools that include those grade spans providing Title I services.

### How often does Comparability need to be determined?

School systems must implement procedures to comply with the Comparability requirements annually.

### How is Comparability determined?

Comparisons are made between schools within grade spans that contain at least one Title I school. Comparability is determined by using the following methods: student/instructional staff ratio or instructional staff salary per student. School systems must demonstrate comparability by utilizing at least one of these computational methods.

### Does every school system need to complete the Title I Comparability Application?

No. School systems with one school per grade span do not need to submit a Title I Comparability Report. Also, single-site LEAs (i.e., Type 2, 3, 3B, and 5 charters) are exempt from submitting the report.

### How are schools compared in determining comparability?

For grade spans containing both Title I and non-Title I schools, each Title I school is compared to the non-Title I schools. For grade spans containing only Title I schools, each higher poverty school is compared to the lower poverty schools.

### How is the criteria established?

Comparable is defined as being within a 10% variance. Therefore, the criteria for determining comparability using the *student/instructional staff ratio method* is 110% of the average student/instructional staff ratio across the comparison schools. The criteria for determining comparability using the *instructional staff salary per student method* is 90% of the average instructional staff salary per student across the comparison schools. The Title I Comparability report automatically calculates the criteria values.

### What does a school system need to do if Comparability is not met?

If Comparability cannot be demonstrated, the school system must make adjustments immediately in staffing to become comparable.

### What happens if a school system fails to make the adjustments necessary to achieve Comparability?

The consequence of non-compliance with Comparability is the loss of a portion of Title I funds from the beginning of non-comparability.