**TITLE I PROGRAM**

**COMPARABILITY OF SERVICES** *Policy Code:* **3565/8307**

To improve the academic achievement of educationally and economically disadvantaged children, the board will participate in the federal Title I program.

1. **Title I Maintenance of Effort**

NERSBA will maintain fiscal effort with state and local funds as required to be eligible for the receipt of funds through Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.

1. **Use and Allocation of Title I Funds**

Title I funds will be used to supplement, and not to supplant, non-federal funds that would otherwise be used for the education of students participating in the Title I program.

1. **Comparability of Services**

State and local funds will be used to provide services that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services in other schools that are not receiving Title I funds.

1. **Comparability Testing**

The executive director shall conduct comparability testing before November 1 of each school year to assess the equivalent distribution of state and local resources among other schools in the school districts supporting NERSBA. The executive director may work with the finance officer in the school district providing fiscal services to NERSBA to conduct the comparability study with high schools in that school district.

1. **Correction of Noncompliance**

If comparability testing identifies any instances of variance greater than 10%, the executive director shall promptly make adjustments as needed to ensure comparability. These adjustments may include, but need not be limited to, reallocation of materials or supplies, or reassignment of personnel.

1. **Documentation of Compliance with Title I Fiscal Requirements**

The executive director shall provide in a timely manner any assurances, additional documentation, or other information required by the State Board of Education/NCDPI to demonstrate NERSBA’s compliance with Title I fiscal requirements.

1. **Records Maintenance**

The executive director shall maintain reports and other documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this policy, including documentation to demonstrate that any needed adjustments to staff assignments were made annually, for review by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction or auditors upon request.

The executive director shall ensure that all other requirements for receiving Title I funds are fulfilled in an accurate and timely manner and shall develop, or cause to be developed, any additional procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq*.*,* 34 C.F.R. pt. 200

Cross References:

Other Resources: *Non-Regulatory Guidance, Title I Fiscal Issues*, U.S. Department of Education (February 2008), available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/fiscalguid.pdf>

Adopted: June 8, 2022