

Education Guide - Glossary

Title I

The nation's largest federal education program, with a 1995 funding level of \$7.2 billion. Created in 1965 during the War on Poverty, Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act serves remedial education programs for poor and disadvantaged children in nearly every school district in the country. Amendments to the law in 1994 were designed to tie the program to schoolwide and districtwide reforms based on challenging academic standards. Title I was formerly known as "Chapter 1."

Title VII

A federal program to make limited-English-proficient students proficient at the English language. The full title of this program, created in 1984, is Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Funding goes to alternative approaches to bilingual education, such as English immersion programs, as well as traditional instruction in a student's native language.

Head Start

A 31-year-old federal program, established as part of President Johnson's anti-poverty agenda, that provides economically deprived preschoolers with education, nutrition, health, and social services at special centers based in schools and community settings throughout the country. The program, designed to help prepare disadvantaged children for school, is known for its high degree of parental involvement in planning and management.

PTA

The mission of the ***National PTA*** is three-fold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

The Objects of the PTA

- To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth

- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Site-based management

The shift of decision-making authority from centralized bureaucracies to local individual establishments. Such proposals vary, but they usually give control of an organization's operation to local administrators.

School-based management

The shift of decision-making authority from school districts to individual schools. Such proposals vary, but they usually give control of a school's operation to a school council composed of parents, teachers, and local administrators and management."

Vocational education

Instruction that prepares a student for employment immediately after the completion of high school. Although often thought of in terms of auto-shop or carpentry courses, such programs frequently also include a strong academic component and teach such cutting-edge skills as computer-aided design.

School-to-Work transition

Any of a host of programs from on-the-job training to apprenticeships to cooperative agreements between high schools and community colleges designed to prepare students not bound for college to enter the job market.

Standards

Subject-matter benchmarks to measure students' academic achievement. Curriculum standards drive what students learn in the classroom. Most agree that public schools' academic standards need to be raised. However, there is national debate over how to implement such standards--how prescriptive they should be, and whether they should be national or local, voluntary or mandated.

Privatization

Transfer of the management of public schools to private or for-profit education organizations. Privatization emphasizes typical business-oriented concepts such as customer satisfaction and managerial autonomy in running schools.

Private school

An independent school that is controlled by an individual or agency other than the state or district. It is usually supported by private funds and is not controlled by publicly elected or appointed officials. See "Independent School."

Parochial school

A school that is church-related, most commonly to the Roman Catholic Church but also to other Protestant denominations. Hebrew day schools can also be termed "parochial."

Magnet school

A school that places special emphasis on academic achievement or on a particular field such as science designed to attract students from elsewhere in the school district.

Charter schools

Schools run independently of the traditional public school system but receiving public funding, run by groups such as teachers, parents, or foundations. Charter schools are free of many district regulations and are often tailored to community needs.

Independent school

A private or nonpublic school that is not part of a school system. An independent school is governed by a board of trustees instead of by the state board of education. It is funded by tuition and private donations and grants. The school must hold a nonprofit status and be accredited by an approved state or regional association. It must also be nondiscriminatory, and it can be either religious or non-religious.

Goals 2000

A federal program that provides grants to states and school districts in exchange for the establishment of challenging academic content standards and accompanying assessments. It codifies the six national education goals that emerged from the 1989 education summit of President Bush and the nation's governors. Introduced by the Clinton administration and adopted by Congress in 1993, Goals 2000 has now expanded to eight national education goals.

Decentralization

The breakup and distribution of power from a central government authority, usually including a reduction of the personnel and funding of that authority. In education, the term is most frequently used to describe the transfer of school policymaking authority from the federal to the state level, or the transfer of decisionmaking authority from the state level to districts or schools.

Business-education partnerships

Various school-reform coalitions formed by private businesses and schools or school districts. Partnerships have evolved from individual school partnerships, to the introduction of management principles into public schools, to a range of reform ideas, from school choice to higher performance standards, most recently focused on the systemic reform of schools.

What is a discretionary grant?

Unlike a formula grant, which the Department awards to all eligible parties based on a predetermined formula, a discretionary grant is one that the Department awards on the basis of a competitive process. The Department reviews applications competitively in light of the legislative and regulatory requirements established for a program. This process of competitive review affords the Department discretion in determining which applications best address the program requirements and are therefore most worthy of funding.

No Child Left Behind

The following describes some of the major federal programs that are funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and provide ideas on how school districts can fund RISO programs and equipment using federal grant money. The assessment and accountability capabilities of the RISO Solutions products are needed in every school and every district.

Use this guide to familiarize yourself with the objectives and requirements of these federal funding programs. Having this information can help you to assist a school or district that wishes to use funds that have already been allocated to them, or that is planning to write a grant seeking funding for RISO solutions products.

NCLB Objectives

NCLB is designed to enable schools to raise student achievement for all student groups (including minority, low-income, special education, and limited English

proficient students). The comprehensive reform called for under the federal law is based on 4 main principles:

- Stronger accountability for results,
- More freedom for states and communities,
- Encouraging proven education methods, and
- More choices for parents.

Under NCLB's accountability provisions, states must describe how they will close the achievement gap and make sure all students, including those who are disadvantaged, achieve academic proficiency. They must produce annual state and school district report cards that inform parents and communities about state and school progress. Schools that do not make progress must provide supplemental services, such as free tutoring or after-school assistance; take corrective actions; and, if still not making adequate yearly progress after five years, make dramatic changes to the way the school is run.