

**TOPIC: Title I School Improvement and Public Charter Schools  
March, 2009**

**Question:** Are public charter schools subject to the accountability requirements under No Child Left Behind?

**Response:** Yes. In North Carolina, adequate yearly progress is determined for public charter schools in the same way as other schools operated through local education agencies. In addition, charter schools that receive Title I funds are covered by the school improvement provisions of Section 1116 of Title I.

**Question:** In North Carolina, public charter schools act as their own LEA. Do the provisions of Section 1116 apply to charter schools for schools in need of improvement or LEAs in need of improvement?

**Response:** Charter schools are subject to the provisions of schools in need of improvement.

**Question:** What are the requirements for a charter school identified for Title I School Improvement?

**Response:** The requirements for Title I charter schools identified for Title I School Improvement are outlined in Non-Regulatory Guidance; The Impact of the New Title I Requirements on Charter Schools.

The entity designated under State law that is responsible for charter school accountability must:

- Promptly provide information to the parents of each child enrolled in the school explaining what the identification means, the reasons for the school being identified, what the school is doing to improve, what help the school is getting, and how parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that led to the identification [Section 1116(b)(6)].
- Ensure that the identified school receives technical assistance, both during the development or revision of its improvement plan and throughout the plan's implementation [Section 1116(b)(4)].
- Review, through a peer-review process, the school's improvement plan, working with the school to make necessary revisions in the plan,

and approving the plan once it meets the requirements of the statute [Section 1116(b)(3)(E).

**Question:** What resources are available to Title I charter schools in need of improvement?

**Response:** All Title I schools in NC, including public charter schools, are eligible for School Improvement funds available under Section 1003(a) and 1003(g) on the same basis as other schools. The Allotment Policy Manual that describes how these funds are allocated may be viewed at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/allotments/general/>. Look for descriptions for Program Report Code (PRC) 105 and PRC 117.

**TOPIC: School Improvement Funds  
February, 2009**

**Question:** What additional funds are available for schools in Title I School Improvement, Corrective Action, or Restructuring?

**Response:** Each state reserves a portion of Title I funds at the state level for Title I School Improvement each year under section 1003(a). These are PRC 105 funds and they are allocated to districts with schools in Title I School Improvement. Also, beginning in 2007, the US Department of Education made additional funds available to states under Section 1003(g). These are referred to as PRC 117 funds. PRC 117 funds are specifically allocated to Title I schools in corrective action or restructuring that have shown improvement from the previous year. The allotment formula for both of the program report codes may be viewed on the NCDPI website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/allotments/general/>.

**Question:** How long are the funds available for use?

**Response:** PRC 105 and PRC 117 funds are generally available for a period of time up to 27 months from the initial year of approval, much like other Title I funding. For school improvement, however, funds may not be expended for a school once the school exits Title I School Improvement. In general if a school exits improvement, the LEA retains the unexpended funds for use in other Title I schools that are still in improvement.

**Question:** May School Improvement Funds be used to support a school that does not participate in Title I but whose lack of progress would qualify it for school improvement under section 1116(b)?

**Response:** No. Only Title I schools identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under 1116(b) may receive School Improvement Funds.

**Question:** Must an LEA amend the Title I LEA Plan to explain how they will use School Improvement Funds?

**Response:** Yes. The Title I LEA Plan addresses the technical assistance that will be provided to schools identified for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring and how the funds will assist with implementing the improvement, corrective action, and restructuring plans developed for each identified school.

**Question:** May School Improvement Funds be used to provide Supplemental Educational Services.

**Response:** Yes. Funds may be used to provide Supplemental Educational Services.