

## Application for Schoolwide Poverty Threshold Waiver For School Year FY25

### Title I, Part A Schoolwide Program Eligibility

**Citation:** Under Section 1114(a)(1)(B) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the State may waive the requirement that a school has at least 40 percent poverty to be eligible to run a Schoolwide program.

**Instructions:**

- A) Review the required components of a Title I Schoolwide Plan (Section A)
- B) Respond to Local Education Agency Information (Section B)
- C) Complete the Waiver Rationale (Section C)
- D) Complete Certification (Section D)
- E) Attach and email a PDF copy of the Poverty Threshold Waiver and the Schoolwide Plan to be implemented during the waiver year to the Title I, Part A Program Specialist by **May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

#### Section A: Required Components of a Title I Schoolwide Plan

1. Our schoolwide plan is available to the local educational agency (LEA), parents, and all public stakeholders. It is in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parent/guardian can understand.
2. We coordinate the Title I Schoolwide Program with other federal, state, and local resources, services, and programs.
3. Our schoolwide plan was developed during a one-year period; or the LEA, in consultation with the school (and approval from the state Title I, Part A Program office), determined that less time was needed to develop and implement a schoolwide plan.
4. We conducted a comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school that takes into account the academic achievement of children, the challenging State academic standards, the needs of those children who are failing or are at-risk of failing to meet the challenging State academic standards, and any other factors as determined by the LEA.
5. We will implement evidence-based strategies that will (N/A for CoF) – (i) provide opportunities for all children, including each of the subgroups of students (as defined in the state's ESSA plan) to meet the challenging State academic standards; (ii) use methods and instructional strategies that strengthen the academic program in the school, increase the amount and quality of learning time, and help provide an enriched and accelerated curriculum, which may include programs, activities, and courses necessary to provide a well-rounded education; and (iii) address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of those at risk of not meeting the challenging State academic standards.
6. All teachers and paraprofessionals working in a program supported with Title I, Part A funds meet Federal and State certification or LEA Professional Qualifications.
7. The plan will remain in effect for the duration of the school's participation under Title I, Part A. We will regularly monitor and revise the schoolwide plan (as necessary) to ensure that all students are provided opportunities to meet the challenging State academic standards.

8. If we serve a school with Title I, Part A funds below 35% poverty, then we will apply the 125% rule to the Per Pupil Allocation (PPA) for all Title I schools. (EdFlex waiver can be considered for the 125% rule.)

## Section B: LEA Information

- Name of District Jefferson City Schools
- Name of School Jefferson Elementary
- School Year the School is Requesting to Operate as a Schoolwide School 2025
- FY23 Poverty Percentage: 27%                      FY24 Poverty Percentage: 35%
- Check all boxes as applicable:
  - The school is currently served as a Schoolwide Program (SWP).
  - The school is currently served as a Targeted Assistance Program (TAP).
  - The school has never been served as a Title I School.
  - The school is currently not being served as a Title I School, but has perviously been served as a Title I School in the following capacity:  SWP    TAP
  - The school will be participating in the Consolidation of Funds (Fund 150) in FY24.

## Section C Part 1: Waiver Rationale

Describe the need and rationale for this Schoolwide Poverty Threshold Waiver. Include why the need(s) cannot be met without a schoolwide program.

Type your response here:

The need for the schoolwide poverty threshold wavier developed from various consultations. Some of these consultations were internal, and others were external. During school- and district-level discussions and review of data, the district continues to see the need to find new and innovative ways to reach students who were experiencing learning loss from the pandemic, greater environmental factors that influence learning gains, and not progressing at rates comparable to their peers in the district. The data suggested that there were students who were not within the TA program label that needed support beyond the capabilities of the school's current plan. The data also suggested that within the TA-identified students, there were a varitey of levels of student achievement and rate of progression. The target-assisted program has served our district well, but the new challenges faced by the effects of the pandemic and the learning loss it caused will need new, innovative approaches to reaching more students. Consultations with GaDOE technical assistance staff in Federal Programs revealed that our plans for providing services for these students may be hindered by our status as a TA program. The GaDOE staff, along with the Jefferson City school- and district-level staff, felt the request for the School-Wide Program waiver was a must so we could reach more students and evolve our services to meet the needs of the students. It would allow the district to serve all students by need rather than a label. It will increase the flexibility of the interventions and use of staff to meet the students where they are academically and socially.

**Section C Part 2: Schoolwide Plan**

Attach a copy of the Schoolwide Program (SWP) plan to be implemented during the waiver year. The submitted SWP plan must have been produced using a full year of planning that included opportunity for parents and community stakeholder input, unless a shorter period has been previously authorized by Title I, Part A of the GaDOE.

**Section D: Certification**

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY CERTIFY** that to the best of our knowledge and information, we have complied with all components in our Title I Schoolwide Program and have developed our plan based on needs and strengths identified through a comprehensive analysis of current academic and non-academic data. We have built into our plan a process for evaluating whether the strategies implemented result in improved academic achievement, and we will adhere to all assurances listed above.

Signature of School Principal: Christy Jai Date: 7/11/24  
Signature of Title I, Part A Director: Jodi Stephens Date: 7/11/24  
Signature of Superintendent: [Signature] Date: 7/11/24

**Section E: GaDOE Review and Approval (GaDOE use only)**

The GaDOE Title I, Part A Program team has reviewed the school's application and Schoolwide Plan and approves the school to operate as a Schoolwide Program as defined in ESEA Section 1114 for the school year identified on this application.

Signature of Title I, Part A Program Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Title I, Part A Program Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach this approved application to the Title I Tab in the Consolidated Application for the fiscal year the school will operate as a Schoolwide Program.**