Calculating Poverty Rates and Number of Low-Income Students Based on Feeder Pattern

An LEA with 1000 or more students may choose to use a "feeder pattern" calculation for middle and/or high schools when determining Title I, Part A ranking and allocations. This allows middle and high schools to have a more accurate poverty level calculated, as many middle and high students choose to not sign up for free and/or reduced-priced meals. Keep in mind that only elementary feeder school numbers are used for middle or high school calculations. In these examples, the numbers are October student counts. If a different month is chosen, keep in mind the requirement to use the same date for all schools, and across all years.

1. Add the student enrollment number for all elementary feeder schools.
2. Add the low-income student count for all elementary feeder schools.
3. Divide the total number of low-income students by the total number of students enrolled. This is the projected poverty level which may be used for ranking purposes if the feeder option is used to determine Title I, Part A eligibility.
4. Multiply the total number of students in the high school or middle school by the projected poverty level to determine the projected number of low-income students. This number is used when determining per-pupil expenditures (PPE).
5. Rank all buildings according to their poverty rate, from high to low.

Example: High School with 1400 Students Enrolled, 20.03% Free/Reduced-Price Meals		
Elementary Feeder Schools	**Student Enrollment**	**Low-Income Students**
Elementary A	185	94
Elementary B	587	106
Elementary C	410	190
Elementary D	277	132
Total	**1459**	**522**
Calculate Projected Poverty Level	522 ÷ 1459 = .3577 **(35.77% projected poverty level)**	
Calculate Projected Number Low-Income Students	1400 x .3577 = **500 projected low-income students** *Note: This number is used when determining PPE if the high school is served by Title I, Part A.*	

In the example above, the four elementary schools feed into the high school. The LEA may use a projected poverty level of 35.77 percent for ranking purposes, making the school eligible for Title I, Part A based on its feeder pattern. While the feeder pattern option made this high school eligible for funding, it may or may not receive funding based on it's rank order and the LEAs basis for allocation (75% rule, district average, grade span, feeder, 35% rule, waiver, less than 1000, high school poverty 50% or higher). If this high school is served, the PPE is based on 500 projected low-income students, not the actual number of low-income students.

Example: Middle School with 1150 Students Enrolled, 22.02% Free/Reduced-Price Meals		
Elementary Feeder Schools	**Student Enrollment**	**Low-Income Students**
Elementary B	587	106
Elementary C	410	190
Elementary D	277	132
Total	**1274**	**428**
Calculate Projected Poverty Level	428 ÷ 1274 = .3359 **(33.59% projected poverty level)**	
Calculate Projected Number Low-Income Students	1150 x .3359 = **386 projected low-income students** *Note: This number is used when determining PPE if the middle school is served by Title I, Part A.*	

In the middle school example above, Elementary A does not feed in to the middle school, so the calculations are based on its three elementary feeder schools. This middle school has a projected poverty level of 33.59 percent based on its feeder pattern. Remember that if a building under 35 percent poverty is served, the 125% Rule will apply. If this middle school is served, the PPE is based on 386 projected low-income students, not the actual number of low-income students.

Example: LEA Ranking Order

School	Student Enrollment	Low-Income Students	Poverty Level
Elementary A	185	94	50.81%
Elementary D	277	132	47.65%
Elementary C	410	190	46.34%
Elementary F	245	105	42.85%
High School A	1400	500 (projected)	35.77% (projected)
Middle School A	1150	386 (projected)	33.59% (projected)
District			*31.72%*
Middle School B	915	220	24.04%
Elementary E	500	115	23.00%
High School B	890	200	22.47%
Elementary B	587	106	18.05%

The final step in the ranking process is to list all buildings according to their poverty rate, from high to low. In the example above, the schools not associated with calculating the feeder pattern for Middle School A and High School A have been added. LEAs may also want to add a row showing their district poverty level. The LEA may now allocate funds based on the rank order of buildings.

Note that form package (FP) 201 will rank buildings based on actual poverty level, not projected poverty level based on a feeder pattern, so the ranking must be sorted elsewhere. If using the feeder pattern option, LEAs should note the feeder elementary schools on FP 201, page 6 (A, B, C or D), in the comment column.