



**April 13, 2022**

**House Education Committee Hearing – HB 413**

*Follow-up on Committee Member Comments*

Prepared by DEED Staff

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**Clarify why, according to the department's website, Hooper Bay School is considered to have a school poverty level of medium when 99.36% of their students are considered economically disadvantaged.**

The data used to calculate the poverty level comes from districts' Title I-A funding applications. The poverty level is determined by sorting the percent of poverty highest to lowest. The schools in the top 25% are labeled high-poverty. Schools in the middle 50% are labeled mid-poverty. The lowest 25% are labeled low-poverty. Districts are required to provide the poverty rates of all schools within their district. To determine the number of public-school students from low-income families, section 1113(a)(5)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides a district the option to use the number of public school children:

- Eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRPL) under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (including children counted through the Community Eligibility Provision);
- In families receiving assistance under the State program funded under Title IV, Part A of the Social Security Act (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF));
- Eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program;
- Ages 5-17 in poverty as counted in the most recent district-level census poverty data approved by the U.S. Department of Education; or
- Counted by the district using a composite of any of the above measures.

Note: Each district has the flexibility to determine which data they use for their Title I-A funding applications. In addition, each district has the flexibility to determine the date of their snapshot.

The percentage of economically disadvantaged students is collected from the October 1 enrollment counts in the Fall OASIS (Online Alaska School Information System) data collection that looks at all students. Districts report children as economically disadvantaged if they are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, receive TANF or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, in foster care, or identified as low-income through an income survey. This does not include Census data, Medicaid data, or a combination of measure as options.