To: District Superintendents, County Superintendents, and Principals

From: Jack O’Connor, Federal Programs Director

Re: 2020 Census Data Counts

Each year, the United States Department of Education (USED) sends to each state the population and poverty estimates for all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in federal formula grant programs. This data was released on December 16, 2021, and it is available [**here.**](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)

The USED will use the ***2020 Census data*** to calculate fiscal year 2023 (School Year 2022-23) allocations under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). Each State Educational Agency (SEA) and LEA must review the data to make sure that it is accurate. **Please note that these numbers are not based upon enrollment and low-income counts from districts, and they are not reflective of any changes that may have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.** The SEA and LEAs have until March 16, 2022, to challenge any data that is thought to be incorrect. The OPI does not handle the challenges, nor provide information on the process. These questions need to be sent to the SAIPE Branch phone: (301) 763-3193.

If an LEA sends an email, please include the following: your name, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and organization affiliation. Click [here](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about/contact/challenges.html) for more information and guidance concerning the Census Bureau’s challenge procedures.

Information about the data sources and the methodology used to prepare this data is available [here.](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe/about.html)

The list of school districts used for the 2020 Census estimates is based on the SY 2020–2021 school district boundary survey conducted by the Census Bureau with the help of the district mapping coordinator in your State. Please note that the school districts on this list include only “regular” school districts that have geographic boundaries. The list does not include, for example, special school districts that a State recognizes as LEAs, such as charter schools or regional vocational education districts. These LEAs do not require “corrections” to the Census Bureau’s boundary survey data; rather, the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. §200.72 require an SEA to adjust the SY 2021–2022 Title I, Part A LEA allocations that ED determines to accommodate new or special LEAs not included on the Census Bureau's SY 2020–2021 list.

Please click [here](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccp3058%5CDesktop%5Cproject%20file%5C2020%20Census%20data.pdf) to see the population and poverty counts for participating districts in Montana.