

§ 222.40

LEA's. These 15 LEAs will be the eligible applicant LEA's new group of generally comparable LEAs.

(C) The SEA may recommend and apply more than one factor of general comparability in selecting a new group of 10 or more generally comparable LEAs for the eligible applicant LEA. If the subgroup containing the eligible applicant LEA includes at least 10 other LEAs (excluding significantly impacted LEAs), it will be the eligible applicant LEA's new group of generally comparable LEAs. The LCR for the eligible applicant LEA shall be computed using the data from all of the LEAs in the subgroup except the eligible applicant LEA.

Example. An eligible applicant LEA is very sparsely populated and serves an unusually high percentage of children with limited English proficiency. The SEA recommends "sparsity of population" and "proportion of children with limited English proficiency" as additional comparability factors. From the group of LEAs under paragraph (a)(2) of this section that includes the eligible applicant LEA, the SEA identifies all LEAs that are sparsely populated. The SEA further subdivides the sparsely populated LEAs into two groups, those that serve an unusually high percentage of children with limited English proficiency and those that do not. The subgroup of at least 10 sparsely populated LEAs that serve a high percentage of children with limited English proficiency is the eligible applicant LEA's new group of generally comparable LEAs.

(4)(i) Using the new group of generally comparable LEAs selected under paragraph (c)(4) of this section, the SEA shall compute the LCR for the eligible applicant LEA according to the provisions of § 222.41.

(ii) The SEA shall submit the resulting LCR to the Secretary and provide the Secretary a description of the additional factor or factors of general comparability and the data used to identify the new group of generally comparable LEAs.

(iii) The Secretary reviews the data submitted by the SEA, and accepts the LCR for the purpose of use under section 8003(b)(1)(C)(iii) in determining the LEA's maximum payment under section 8003 if the Secretary determines that it meets the purposes and requirements of the Act and this part.

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(d) This section does not apply to applicant LEAs located in—

- (1) Puerto Rico;
- (2) Wake Island;
- (3) Guam;
- (4) American Samoa;
- (5) Any outlying area; and
- (6) Any State in which there is only one LEA.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1810-0036)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(1)(C)(iii))

§ 222.40 How does a local educational agency select a local contribution rate based on generally comparable local educational agencies?

(a) In selecting an LCR based upon generally comparable LEAs, an LEA shall use the following steps:

(1) *Step 1.* The LEA shall select the factor or factors in § 222.39 the LEA wishes to use as the basis for general comparability.

(2) *Step 2.* Using State-supplied data, the LEA shall identify within the State the entire group of LEAs (containing at least 10 LEAs exclusive of significantly impacted LEAs described in § 222.39(b)(1)) that matches the factor or factors selected in Step 1 and that contains the applicant LEA or would contain the applicant LEA if it were not significantly impacted.

(3) *Step 3.* The LEA shall recommend to the Secretary the LCR, which the SEA has computed according to the provisions of § 222.39, based on the group identified in Step 2.

(b) A significantly impacted LEA described in § 222.39(b)(1) may—

(1) Apply for assistance under this program; and

(2) Under the generally comparable LEA method, recommend for itself the LCR of any group in which it would be included based on grade span/legal classification, size, location, or a combination of these factors, if it were not excluded as significantly impacted in § 222.39(b)(1).

Example. An LEA applies for assistance under section 8003 and wishes to recommend to the Secretary an LCR based on generally comparable LEAs within its State.

1. Characteristics of Applicant LEA

The grade span of the applicant LEA is kindergarten through grade 8 (K-8). In the

applicant's State, legal classification of LEAs is based on grade span, and thus does not act to further subdivide groups of LEAs.

The ADA of the applicant LEA is above the median ADA of LEAs serving only K-8 in the State.

The applicant LEA is located outside an MSA.

2. Characteristics of Other LEAs Serving Same Grade Span

The SEA of the applicant's State groups all LEAs in its State according to the factors in § 222.39.

(a) The SEA identifies the following groups:

(i) One hundred and one LEAs serve only K-8. The SEA has identified a group of 50 LEAs having an ADA above the median ADA for the group of 101, one LEA having an ADA at the median, and a group of 50 LEAs having an ADA below the median ADA; and according to § 222.39(a)(2)(i), the SEA considers 51 LEAs to have an ADA below the median ADA.

(ii) Of the 101 LEAs in the group, the SEA has identified a group of 64 LEAs as being inside an MSA and a group of 37 LEAs as being outside an MSA.

(iii) Among the group of 50 LEAs having an ADA above the median, the SEA has identified a group of 35 LEAs as being inside an MSA and a group of 15 LEAs as being outside an MSA.

(iv) Among the group of 51 LEAs having an ADA at or below the median, the SEA has identified a group of 29 LEAs as being inside an MSA and 22 LEAs as being outside an MSA.

(v) One LEA has 20 percent of its ADA composed of children identified under section 8003(a)(1)(A)-(C) and, therefore, must be excluded from any group it falls within before the SEA computes an LCR for the group. The LEA has an ADA below the median ADA and is located outside an MSA.

(b) On the basis of § 222.41, the SEA computes the LCR for each group of generally comparable LEAs that the SEA has identified.

3. Selection of Generally Comparable LEAs

The applicant LEA selects the group of generally comparable LEAs matching the factor or factors it wishes to use as the basis for general comparability. Under the requirements of § 222.39, the applicant LEA must begin with the group that includes all LEAs with its grade span, and, if relevant and sufficiently different, legal classification. In this case, grade span and legal classification happen to be the same. Thus, the group would include 100 LEAs, after excluding the one significantly impacted LEA. The applicant LEA then has several options:

(a) *Option 1.* The applicant LEA may select as its group of generally comparable LEAs on which to base its recommended LCR the entire group of 100 LEAs serving K-8, after excluding the one significantly impacted LEA. The applicant LEA then recommends to the Secretary as its LCR the rate computed for this group by the SEA.

(b) *Option 2.* Instead of selecting the group of 100, the applicant LEA may select as its generally comparable group only those LEAs within the 101 (the significantly impacted LEA must be included initially for the purpose of determining the median ADA) that have an ADA above the median ADA, that is, the group of 50. The applicant LEA then recommends to the Secretary as its LCR the rate computed for the group by the SEA.

(c) *Option 3.* Instead of selecting either of the groups described in Options 1 and 2, the applicant LEA may select as its generally comparable group only those LEAs within the 100 that are outside an MSA; that is, the group of 36, after excluding the one significantly impacted LEA. The applicant LEA then recommends to the Secretary as its LCR the rate computed for this group by the SEA.

(d) *Option 4.* Instead of selecting any of the groups described in Options 1, 2, and 3, the applicant LEA may select as its generally comparable group only those LEAs that both have an ADA above the median ADA for the 101 and are outside an MSA; that is, the group of 15. The applicant LEA then recommends to the Secretary as its LCR the rate computed for this group by the SEA. However, as provided in § 222.39(b)(2), if the SEA were to have identified fewer than 10 LEAs under any factor or combination of factors, the SEA would not have computed a rate for such a group. Therefore, an applicant LEA included in such a group would not be able to use this factor or combination of factors in recommending its LCR to the Secretary. The significantly impacted LEA described in § 222.39(b)(1), while included for determining the median ADA, is excluded from the computation of any group's LCR. However, the significantly impacted LEA may recommend for itself the LCR of any group it matches in grade span/legal classification, size, location, or a combination of these factors, (that is, in the case of the significantly impacted LEA referred to in this example, below the median ADA and outside an MSA), provided the group contains at least 10 LEAs that are not significantly impacted.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(1)(C)(iii) and 7703(f)(3)(A)(i)(II) and (III))