**Program Area Updates & Guidance**

**Census Block Tier Mapping for 2023:**

The American Community Survey, or ACS, is an ongoing, yearly survey that provides vital information on the population of United States citizens. The 5-year estimates (2016-2020) from the ACS are "period" estimates that represent data collected over a period of time. The primary advantage of using multiyear estimates is the increased statistical reliability of the data for less populated areas and small population subgroups.

The particular datasets from the ACS survey collected for development of the Texas Education Agency State Compensatory Education allotment tier assignments are: percentage of home ownership, median income, percentile of single-parent households, and percentile education level (as an education score). The count of economically disadvantaged students aged 18 and under is taken from PEIMS and used as the denominator. Each tier will have a similar number of students in each tier for parity purposes.

Census Block Group IDs will be based on the GEOID assignments as updated by the 2020 decennial census data. From this point forward until 2030 data release, as opposed to previous years when the total count of Texas block groups equaled 15,811, there are 18,638 block groups in the state.

Note 1: A block group is a subdivision of a census tract and contains a cluster of blocks. Block groups usually have between 250 and 550 housing units. A census block is the smallest geographic census unit provided via the ACS. Blocks can be bounded by visible features—such as streets—or by invisible boundaries, such as city limits.

Note 2: In order to reduce nonresponse bias in data collected in 2020, the Census Bureau revised its methodology following pandemic-related data collection disruptions.