

Title I Newsletter

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Purpose of Title I

Title I is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

- Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.
- Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.
- Title I provides great decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

Components of a School-wide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- School-wide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the state's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a highly qualified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent involvement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from preschool to elementary, from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

Parent Involvement

Parental involvement is an integral part of the Title I program.

- Parents are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.
- A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success.
- Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents within a Title I school.
- Opportunities for active parent participation should include, but not be limited to, open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, home visitations, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, newsletters, and more.
- The *No Child Left Behind* legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement.
- Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent involvement expenditures.

Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact

Each Title I school receives input from parents for the development of a parent involvement policy and a school-parent compact.

- The parent involvement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs.
- The school-parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, including the principal, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Description & Explanation of Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment and Proficiency Levels Students Are Expected to Meet

Our district provides a high quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards.

- This curriculum has been approved by the S.C. Board of Education and adopted by our district.
- Textbooks used in the classrooms have been revised by a committee of teachers and adopted and endorsed by the State Department of Education.
- Specific educational programs in each school are targeted to meet the identified needs of the children in the school.

Our district administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students.

- The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS), which is part of the state assessment program, is given to students in Grades 3-8 and measures student performance on the state standards.
- Beginning in the second year of high school, the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) is administered. This test is in accordance with *No Child Left Behind* and measures students' academic achievement on high school academic standards.
- To monitor student progress throughout the year, students in Grades 2-5 are assessed by MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) to allow teachers diagnostic information in order to meet the needs of all students.
- In addition, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.
- Based upon requirements of *No Child Left Behind*, all students in grades three through eight are expected to score "MET" or "EXEMPLARY" on PASS by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled in our district, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner:

- Whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching.
- Whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate.
- The teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- The teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the principal or the Lancaster County School District personnel office at 286-6972.

South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the S.C. Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within 30 days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.
- Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated.
- Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201.
- The SCDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within 10 business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint.
- The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.
- The final decision of the SCDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

District Wide Title I Expenditures for 2011-2012

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation includes provisions for all children to meet the state's proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. To assist in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the district's Title I plan. This plan was jointly developed by members of the district's Title I Planning Team and the district's Corrective Action Oversight Team.

- Fund transportation costs associated with the offering of school choice in school improvement schools.
- Contract with Supplemental Educational Providers (approved by the SCDE) to provide tutoring to eligible students in select school improvement schools.
- Employ district Title I Coordinator.
- Employ instructional facilitators to focus on Classroom Formative Assessment at five middle schools.
- Provide one instructional specialist in technology.
- Provide two Title I technical assistants in schools in "RP" or "R."
- Provide opportunities for ongoing research-based professional development.
- Provide support for instructional programs in Title I schools.
- Employ lead ELA teacher.
- Employ .5 FTE coordinator of instruction.
- Employ 3.0 FTE teachers and instructional aides at schools that are in improvement.
- Employ part-time SES/Cayen and district parent coordinator

District Wide Title I Parent Involvement Activities

- The *No Child Left Behind* legislation requires school districts to use a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement. The parent involvement activities listed below are included in the district's Title I Plan. This plan was jointly developed by members of the district's Title I Planning Team.
- Support Connect-Ed parent messaging system district wide.
- Disseminate *No Child Left Behind* information to parents in an understandable format.
- Provide parent resource information to schools for the purpose of improving academic achievement and school performance.

Each school is continually monitoring the implementation of this plan and welcomes input from parents, school staff, and community members regarding its current and future Title I plans. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I Planning Team, please contact your principal.