



Anderson School District Five

Title I Newsletter

2016-2017

Purpose of Title I

Title I (of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) legislation) 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 greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

Homeland Park, Nevitt Forest, New Prospect, Varennes and Whitehall elementary schools, and Robert Anderson and Lakeside Middle Schools all qualify for schoolwide programs. Title I funds are used to upgrade the entire school's instructional program and all students benefit from the services that Title I provides.

Parental 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 include, but are not limited to, open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, monthly 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.

Components of a Title I Schoolwide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- Schoolwide 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 pre-school to elementary, from elementary to middle, and from middle 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 Policy and School-Parent Compact

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents regarding 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, and 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.

At the beginning of the school year in Registration Gateway, parents received a draft of the current Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact, along with a survey and form to make suggestions. The survey and any suggestions were considered and the final policy and parent compact for 2016-2017 may be found on the district webpage and parents may request a copy at the school office.

Title I Participation

Anderson School District Five and each school receiving Title I funds continually monitor the implementation of the Title I 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 or make comments on the plan, please contact the principal at your child's school. You may also access the suggestion form on the web or through your child's school. Your suggestions and comments will be considered at the next Title I planning meeting for inclusion in the next policy revision. Thank you!

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

For more information about Title I or your school's Title I plan, please contact your school principal.

Anderson School District Five provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the Anderson School District Five Board of Education. Textbooks used in the classrooms have been reviewed 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.

Anderson School District Five administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The SC College and Career Ready Assessments (SC READY), and Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS), which are part of the state assessment program, are given to students in grades three through eight and measures student performance on the state standards. Measures of Academic Performance (MAP), a nationally norm-referenced test used to measure academic growth, are administered by the District to students in kindergarten through eighth grade three times per year. To monitor student progress throughout the year, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon requirements of *Elementary and Secondary Act*, all students in grade three are expected to score "Meets" or "Exceeds" on SC READY by Spring 2018.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled at a school receiving Title I funding, 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:

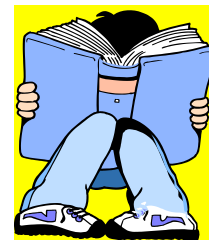
- whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the Personnel Department at 864-260-5000.

South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education (SDE) has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty 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, Room 512-C, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
- The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten 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 SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Education.



Title I Expenditures for 2016-2017

To aid in reaching our goal of academic achievement for all students, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan that was jointly developed by the members of the school's Title I planning team.

- Reading Recovery Teachers (Elementary only)
- Instructional Facilitators
- Reduced Class Size Teachers
- ELA and Math Instructional Materials and Supplies
- Academic Interventionists/specialist

- Behavioral Interventionist
- Parent Liaison
- Extended Day/Year programs
- Technology Supplies/Software/Hardware
- Parent Involvement Supplies/Materials/Activities
- Professional Development for school staff