

Title I

Improving your child's education

What is Title I?

It's nation's largest assistance program for schools. The goal of Title I is to help every child get a high-quality education.

-Title I resources are directed toward students who need them most. Services may be provided at a public school (including charter schools), or at a private or parochial school (under certain conditions).

Title I helps students, teachers and parents. The program can help:

- children do better in school and instill self-confidence
- teachers understand the needs and concerns of students and parents
- parents understand their child and are more involved in the child's education.

Parents are an important part of the Title I team

Be active in your Title I program. Start by attending the annual Title I meeting. You can:

- Learn more about Title I and your rights and responsibilities as a parent.
- Work with other parents and teachers.
- Begin to plan and carry out programs. Check with the school for Title I meeting dates.

Know your rights.

As the parent of a child in a Title I school, you have the right to:

- see child's report on your child and the school
- request information about your child's teacher's qualifications
- help decide if Title I is meeting your child's needs, and offer suggestions for improvement.

How does Title I work?

Federal, state and local governments work together.

1. ***The federal government*** provides funding to the state. To get funds, each state must submit a plan describing:
 - what all students are expected to know and be able to do
 - the standards of performance that all students are expected to meet
 - ways to measure the schools' progress.
2. ***The state educational agency*** (SEA) sends the money to schools districts based on the number of families below a set income level.
3. ***The local school district*** (called a local education agency or LEA) identifies eligible schools and distributes Title I resources.

The school Title I program is revised each year by administrators, teachers and parents. A school improvement plan is written.

How Title I helps children

Title I schools work to:

- identify students most in need of educational help (students do not have to meet income standards to qualify)
- set goals for improvement
- measure students progress using standards set in the state's Title I plan
- develop programs that add to regular classroom instruction

-involve parents in all aspects of the program.

A “parental involvement policy” helps parents understand and take part in the school’s efforts.

Title I programs generally offer:

- more teachers and assistants
- more training for school staff
- extra time for instruction
- a variety of teaching methods and materials
- smaller classes
- counseling and mentoring
- career and college information.

Title I teachers and other staff work closely together and may also help students by offering parenting skills workshops for parents.

More facts about Title I

Title I serves children through one of two types of programs:

- school wide Title I programs serve all students in a school. They can be developed at schools in which at least 40 percent of the children meet certain income guidelines.
- Targeted assistance programs help ensure that eligible children receive assistance to meet performance standards. Strategies may include extended day or extended year programs.

Student progress is measured each year by administrators, teachers and parents to ensure all students, including Title I students, are reaching the goals set for improvement.

Note: If certain goals for improvement are not met after a specified time, your child may be eligible for other Title I benefits, such as tutoring or school choice. Ask your school administrator for more information.

State performance standards help schools measure progress by comparing yearly assessments of all students.

Be part of Title I’s success participate in your child’s education. You can:

- Attend school events.
- Talk about homework with your child.
- Show how schoolwork relates to daily life.
- Make an appointment to visit the classroom as an observer, volunteer or assistant.
- Join parents’ organizations.

Ask the school about training programs that the LEA and the school must provide to help parents participate in Title I.

Be aware of your child’s performance

- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Request additional meetings, if needed.
- Keep teachers informed about events and issues that may affect your child’s work or behavior.

Everyone benefits from Title I. Be part of a winning team!