Title I Fast Facts

Title I

• The goal of Title I is a high quality education for every child, so the program provides extra help to students who need it the most. These are the children who are not meeting standards set for all students.

• The program serves millions of children in elementary and secondary schools each year. Services may be provided at a public school, private school or charter school.

• Title I is about giving all children a chance. Some students may not have all the advantages other students have. Its goal is to help all children get a good education.

• Title I can help the whole school. Schools in communities that meet certain income requirements can use Title I money for the whole school. It helps a school do more for all of its students.

Major Components of Title I

• Title I Budget
• Record Retention Family Compact (Parent, Student, School)
• PI - Parent Involvement
• PD - Professional Development
• School Choice

Why Parents Should Know About Title I

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I. To get the funds, each state must submit a plan describing:
• What all children are expected to know and be able to do (the high-quality standards of performance that all children are expected to meet)
• Ways to measure progress (assessments)

State Educational Agencies (SEAs) send the money to school districts based on the numbers of low-income families. The Local Educational Agency (LEA), identifies eligible schools and provides funding. Schools, in consultation with the Superintendent, decide how best to use their Title I funds. The Title I school (this includes parents, teachers, administrators and other school staff) works to:
• Identify students most in need of educational help (students do NOT have to be from low-income families to receive help)
• Set goals for improvement
• Measure students' progress, using standards set forth in the state's Title I plan
• Develop programs that add resources to regular classroom instruction
• Involve parents in all aspects of the program

Title I Funds Usage

• Create smaller classes
• Provide additional teachers and assistants
• Offer additional training for school staff
• Provide extra time for instruction
• Use a variety of teaching methods and materials
• Increase counseling and mentoring services
• Focus on career and college awareness
• Promote Title I teachers and other staff working closely together

School District Parent Involvement Policy

Each LEA that receives Title I funds shall develop jointly with, agree upon and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy. It includes:
• Involving parents in the process of strategic and school improvement planning
• Providing coordination and technical assistance in planning effective parental involvement
• Building strong parental involvement programs for each school

Title I Parent/School Compact

A school must have a compact for all the children in its Title I program.

• The compact states the goals and responsibilities of students, parents and schools
• The Title I law encourages schools to plan strong school-family-community partnerships in support of student learning

Highly Qualified Teachers Requirements

• Be state-certified and/or have passed licensing examinations
• Have a Bachelor of Arts degree
• Be able to demonstrate knowledge through teaching skills and/or the passage of rigorous tests or state evaluations (for new teachers)

Right to Know Qualifications

• You have the right to request the qualifications of your child's teacher and any instructional paraprofessionals that work with your child.
• To learn the qualifications of these staff, make an appointment with the principal.

Right to Know – 4 Week Letter

Parents will be notified when their children are taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

School District and School Requirements

All materials are provided to parents, "in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand."

Each school district and school MUST provide:

• Program information for parents
• Materials and training
• Education for educators
• Preschool coordination
• Understandable communication
• Other requested activities

Each district and school MAY provide:

• Input on professional development
• Literacy training
• Reasonable and necessary parents' expenses to attend meetings and training sessions
• Parents reaching out to parents
• Convenient school meetings
• Model-approached
• District-wide parental council
• Community involvement

School Improvement Plans Requirements

• Parents are given an opportunity to provide input
• Parental involvement, professional development
• Title I budgets
• Set-asides at the school level, minimum
• At least 1% parent involvement, and not just school improvement