



# Title I Parent Newsletter

## Purpose of Title I

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the latest reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and was approved by the U.S. Congress in December 2015. This law provides significant federal support for programs to serve students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

### Overview/Highlights:

- Limits the power of the federal government to set education policy for states
- Increases state flexibility to design accountability systems, interventions, and student supports
- Increases state and local flexibility in the use of federal funds
- Gives states flexibility to work with local stakeholders to develop educator evaluation and support systems
- Maintains annual assessments for grades 3-8 and high school

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 also helps children from families that have migrated to the United States and youth from intervention programs who are neglected or at risk of abuse. The act appropriates money for educational purposes until it is reauthorized.<sup>[4]</sup> In addition, Title I appropriates money to the education system for prevention of dropouts and the improvement of schools

Title I coordinates services with other educational services, 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.

## 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 limited to open house, parent workshops, school-parent organizations, conferences, monthly newsletters and more.

The *Elementary and Secondary Education* legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement. Parents should contact the school Principals with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent involvement expenditures or to become involved in the Title I planning team.

## 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.

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

Florence County School District Four provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the Florence County School District Four 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.

Florence County School District Four administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. Online testing begins this current school year.

To monitor student progress throughout the year, students in kindergarten are administered the Kindergarten Reading Assessment 2 (KRA2) and first grade through fifth grade are administered the Measures of Academic Progress (MAPS) benchmark to determine student progress and growth and for Student Learning Objectives for teachers. Brockington Elementary Students and Johnson Middle School Students both are administered the SC READY (reading, writing, & Math) and SCPASS (science & social studies) standardized tests. In addition to those tests, Johnson Middle students will take the EOC, English 1, Algebra 1, Biology 1, and US History tests. Timmonsville High third year students will be administered the ACT and WIN tests.

\*\*SCPASS pass scores were issued at the back to school registration.

\*\*Brockington's test scores will be sent home with the students.

In addition, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

**Parent's Right to Know**

As a parent of a student enrolled at Florence County School District Four, 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 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 Florence County School District Four Human Resource Office at 843-346-3956.

**Components of a Title 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 certified 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 school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessments.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

**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 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 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, South Carolina 29201.
- The SCDE 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 SCDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

The list of Title I served schools may be obtained on the District's website or you may contact Lashaundra Fisher, Title I/II, Special Funds Coordinator at 843-346-3956 Ext 1110 for further information about any of these requirements and to find out how you can become involved in our efforts to improve Florence County School District Four.