

# Ways parents can **GET INVOLVED!**

*Become active in your Title I Program by doing the following:*

- » **Learn** more about the school, curriculum, special programs, Title I, and your rights and responsibilities
- » **Teach** your child in ways that will add to what the teacher is doing
- » **Know** your rights because knowledge is power
- » **Participate** and support your child academically at school and home
- » **Make** decisions about your child's education and academic program
- » **Keep** in contact with your child's teacher through telephone, e-mail, or face-to-face conversations

## Reauthorization of ESEA

In December 2015, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The new law named Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) focuses on the clear goal of fully preparing all students for success in college and careers. Although the ESSA law is in effect, the federal government allows a transition period for states to implement the ESSA law. Therefore, states will continue to implement Title I in accordance with ESEA, until ESSA begins on July 1, 2017.

**Reward Schools** are Title I schools that are either among the State's highest performing schools or schools with significantly high progress. They are identified annually. Highest Performing Reward Schools are among the highest 5% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) Content Mastery Category Performance score. High Progress Reward Schools are among the highest 10% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average CCRPI Progress score.

### Priority Schools

are among the lowest 5% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average CCRPI Content Mastery Category Performance score or high schools with a four-year cohort graduation rate less than 60 percent for two consecutive years.

**Focus Schools** are among the lowest 10% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average CCRPI Achievement Gap score.

*For more information on the status of your school, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/pekb2dt> or speak with an administrator at your school.*



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## A Parent's Guide to Title I



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## Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965





*Through Title I, money is given to school districts around the country* based on the number of low-income families in each district. Each district uses its Title I money for extra educational services for children most in need of educational help. The focus of the Title I program is on helping all students meet the same high standards expected of all children.

# What is Title I?

*Title I is the largest federally funded program for elementary, middle, and high schools.*

## TITLE I PROGRAMS CAN HELP:

- » Children do better in school and feel better about themselves
- » Teachers understand the needs and concerns of students and parents
- » Parents understand their child and be more involved in the child’s education



*Title I helps students, teachers, and parents!*

### What is My Role in Supporting My Student’s Success?

Parents are an important part of the Title I team and are partners with the school in helping all students achieve.

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

- » Be **involved** in the planning and implementation of the parent involvement program in your school
- » **Ask** to read the progress reports on your child and school
- » **Request** information about the professional qualifications of your child’s teacher(s) including the degrees and certifications held, and whether the teacher is certified in their respective area of instruction
- » Help to **decide** if Title I is meeting your child’s needs, and offer suggestions for improvement
- » **Ask** about your child’s school designation under the new Georgia Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver
- » **Know** if your child has been assigned, or taught by a teacher that is not highly qualified for at least four consecutive weeks
- » Help **develop** your school’s plan for how parents and schools can work together

### What is the State’s Role in Supporting My Student’s Success?

The Georgia Department of Education is required to carry out the following actions:

- » Partner with other agencies and institutions to provide leadership and guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in accord with Section 1118, Parental Involvement, of ESEA to enable parents to become strongly involved in their children’s education
- » Disseminate to LEAs and schools information about effective parental engagement practices that:
  - Make use of the most current professional research
  - Foster high achievement by all students
  - Lower the barriers to greater participation by parents in the process of review and improvement in school planning
- » Provide parents with an easy-to-understand annual state report card regarding student achievement and the professional qualifications of instructional staff
- » Review the progress of each LEA annually to determine:
  - If each LEA is carrying out its responsibilities regarding assessment, parental engagement, school improvement and support, and the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
- » Monitor compliance with Title I law, including review of the LEA’s parental involvement policies and practices

### What is the School District’s Role in Supporting My Student’s Success?

Local educational agencies (LEAs) are defined as school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools that are responsible for the following actions:

- » Plan and implement educational programs, activities, and procedures as required under Title I that involve parents
- » Reserve 1% of Title I funds for parental involvement activities if the LEA receives more than \$500,000
- » Develop a parental involvement policy with the participation of parents
- » Provide full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and parents of migratory children, and when appropriate, in a language and format that they can understand
- » Conduct annual parent surveys and implement changes based upon the results of those surveys
- » Build parent capacity by providing early literacy and technology trainings that will help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement
- » Build capacity of school staff by providing resources that will assist staff in communicating with parents and working in partnership for students’ academic success.

### What is the School’s Role in Supporting My Student’s Success?

Some Title I schools are schoolwide programs. This means that school staff work to improve the school’s educational program in an effort to increase the achievement of all students, particularly those who are low achieving and thus could benefit from extra supports or services. Other schools may have a targeted assistance program, which means that only certain students and their parents can benefit from the additional services Title I provides. Title I schools are responsible for the following actions:

- » Send notifications to parents about the school’s policy in an understandable language and format
- » In addition to an annual Title I meeting, hold an annual parent meeting, at a convenient time for parents, to discuss the school’s parental involvement plan, budget, how funding is spent, and the rights of parents to be involved
- » Develop jointly, with the parents of participating students, a school-parent compact focused on academic achievement
- » Offer parental meetings at various times (schools may also pay for transportation and child care, when reasonable and necessary)
- » Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the school parental involvement policy
- » Build parent capacity by supporting the development of parent advisory councils or parent leadership teams
- » Provide information to parents about the state standards and curriculum and how parents can monitor their child’s progress

*To learn more or view Title I, Part A Parental Involvement, Section 1118 of ESEA in its entirety, please visit: <http://bit.ly/title1parta>*