

WAYS PARENTS CAN ENGAGE IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION!

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 phone, e-mail, online, or face-to-face conversations

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

In December 2015, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The new law named the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) focuses on the clear goal of fully preparing all students for success in college and careers.

ALABAMA'S REPORT CARD LAW

Alabama Act No. 2012-402, requires the State Superintendent of Education to develop a school grading system reflective of school and district performance. This law requires the state to use state-authorized assessments and other key performance indicators that give a total profile of the school or school district, or both. A school's grade, at a minimum shall be based on a combination of Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, Graduation Rate (for schools with a grade 12), College and Career Readiness (for schools with a grade 12), and Chronic Absenteeism. (For the measure of school quality or student success, Alabama will use College and Career Readiness, and Chronic Absenteeism)

ALABAMA'S ESSA PLAN

Alabama's approved ESSA plan merges the requirements of both state and federal law into one Accountability System that differentiates among the schools and districts within Alabama.

SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENT

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools

Schools that are identified as in the bottom 5% (6% for the fall of 2018 list) of Title I Schools (based on the total points earned) and those schools (both Title 1 and non-Title 1) with a graduation rate at or below 67% (more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average for the 2018 list). These schools were first named in the fall of 2018 and will be named again in the fall of 2021.

Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Schools

Schools with one or more subgroups that are at or below the 75th percentile of the "All Students" group of the schools identified as CSI based on being in the bottom 5% (6% for the fall 2018 list), and who have not shown improvement during the two (2) previous consecutive years.

If you have questions about Title I, please contact

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Madison County Schools does not discriminate in admission, treatment, or access to program or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religious preference, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status. Students with disabilities will be provided with the same needed supports and services for extracurricular programs and activities that are provided during the school day, unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the program and activity. To report incidents of discrimination contact

Dr. Rachel Ballard at:
rballard@mcscs12.org/256.852.2557 Ext. 61407



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A FAMILY'S GUIDE to **TITLE I**



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015



WHAT IS TITLE I?

Title I is the largest federally funded program for elementary, middle, and high schools. Title I helps students, teachers, and parents!



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 these students meet the same high standards expected of all children.

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 engaged in the child's education

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 their students achieve.

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

- Be **engaged** in the planning and implementation of the parent and family engagement policy and 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) and/or paraprofessionals 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Part A
- Help **develop** your school's plan for how parents and schools can work together

What are My Rights as a Parent of a Student Served in a Title I School? You Have a Right to Know:

- How to be involved in your student's school
- Your student's teachers meet state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area being taught
- All instructional aides meet professional qualifications
- If your student has been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not certified and teaching in field
- Your student's state and local assessment information including subject matter assessed, the purpose of the assessment, time and format of the assessment, and the benchmark requirements
- How well your student is progressing - every child should receive progress reports and report cards regularly
- How your student's school is performing through a state issued report card
- Information will be provided in native language when necessary
- If you have a disability that needs accommodation, you will be accommodated

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 engage parents
- Reserve 1% of Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities if the LEA receives more than \$500,000
- Develop a parent and family engagement 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 an annual evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy and implement changes based upon the findings of the evaluation
- Build parent capacity by providing 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?

All Title I schools in Madison County 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. Title I schools are responsible for the following actions:

- Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the school parent and family engagement policy
- Develop jointly, with the parents of participating students, a school-parent compact focused on academic achievement
- Inform parents in an understandable language and format
- Offer parent meetings at various times or in various formats (schools may also pay for transportation and childcare, when reasonable and necessary)
- Provide information to parents about the state standards, curriculum, and assessments and how parents can monitor their child's progress
- Build parent capacity by coordinating and integrating parent programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs



To learn more or view Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement, Section 1116 of ESSA in its entirety, please visit: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy>