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Title I

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Mercer Area Elementary School receives federal funds for our participation in Title I-A programming. This letter provides you with more information regarding the program and the benefits that this brings to the school system and your children. Title I is a 100% federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to Local Educational Agencies (LEA) to improve educational opportunities for educationally deprived children. Title I programs are designed to help children meet the state content and performance standards in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. In buildings with 40% or more poverty, LEAs may use the funds to upgrade the entire curriculum of the school and are considered Schoolwide Programs. In buildings with less than 40% poverty, programs are designed to help specific children and are considered Targeted Assistance Programs. LEAs and schools are subject to consequences of school choice and supplemental education services if they do not meet adequate yearly progress as determined by the State Educational Agency. Mercer Area Elementary School does meet the qualifications of receiving services under the Schoolwide Programs guidelines.

The Mercer Area Elementary Schoolwide Title I program provides instructional services developed at helping students improve their skills in Mathematics and English Language Arts. Students qualify for these services based upon a multitude of assessments. Some of these potential assessments used include DIBELS, DRA, NWEA, PSSA, teacher-created assessments, and teacher recommendations. All students are assessed at least 3x per year and can successfully exit, or test into the program. Progress monitoring is done regularly and results are sent home, so that families can stay informed.

The federal government has allocated a preliminary budget of \$354,090 to the Mercer Area School District, specifically for Title I purposes. After deducting a 4.4% administrative fee (\$15,580) to Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, the remaining district allocation is \$338,510. Mercer Elementary receives 85% (\$287,734), while Mercer Middle School receives 10% (\$33,851), and Mercer High School receives 5% (\$16,925). For the past number of years, the Mercer Area School District has utilized the Title I funding to provide highly qualified teachers that provide critical student interventions in the areas of reading and mathematics. There are five teachers that provide Title I services at Mercer Area Elementary School during the 2024-2025 school year:

Mrs. Julie Harris	Math and English Language Arts	Kindergarten, 2 nd Grade
Ms. Lisa Wishart	Math	Grades 1-6
Mrs. Nancy Smith	Math and English Language Arts	Grades 2-3
Mrs. Ava Bresnan	English Language Arts	Kindergarten, 1 st Grade
Mrs. Kristen Sansone	English Language Arts	Grades 3-6

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the Title I program, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 724-662-5102 or via email at gacre@mercer.k12.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Gregory R. Acre

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Principal