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## Title II-A

*August 21, 2024*

Mercer Area Elementary School receives federal funds for our participation in Title II-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.

The purpose of this program is to provide grants to State educational agencies and subgrants to local educational agencies to –

- 1) Increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards
- 2) Improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- 3) Increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and
- 4) Provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

Ultimately it is up to the discretion of the school district to determine where this grant will be most effectively used. For the past number of years, the Mercer Area School District utilized the II-A funding to satisfy the category of *increasing the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools.*

By continuing to utilize this resource, we are able to reduce the class size in the primary grade levels. In examining the class enrollment, it has been determined that the district will be establishing four (4) First Grade classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year. As a result of this increase we are ensuring a smaller teacher-to-student ratio. The federal government has allocated a preliminary budget of \$43,114 to Mercer Area Elementary School specifically for Title II-A purposes. After a 4.4% administrative fee (\$1,897) is deducted from the allotment by Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, it is the intention of the district to use the remaining \$41,217 towards the cost of this First Grade teacher.

Ms. Allison Thomas will be our Title II-A teacher at the elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. We believe that the students will be more successful both academically and socially with a smaller class size in the primary grade levels.

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

Sincerely,

*Gregory R. Acre*

Gregory R. Acre  
Principal