

Parents' Right to Know

Teacher & Paraprofessional Qualifications

In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, the Thomas County School District will provide, upon request, certain information on the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals (ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(A)). Parents may request the following information:

1. Whether the student's teacher—
 - has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and,
 - is teaching in the field or discipline of the certification of the teacher.
 2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- If you desire information concerning the qualifications of your child's teacher(s), please contact the principal at your child's school.

Non-Professionally Qualified Teachers

Each Thomas County School will provide to student's parent or guardian a timely notice that his or her student has been assigned or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has NOT met subject or grade level requirements for professional qualifications (ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)).

Student Achievement

Each Thomas County School will provide to parents information on their child's level of achievement on each of the state academic assessments (ESSA Section 1111(2)(B)(x)).

Parent Resources Title I

The following schools are classified as Title I Schools: Hand-in-Hand Primary, Garrison-Pilcher Elementary, Cross Creek Elementary, Thomas County Middle, The Renaissance Center, and Thomas County Academy. Each of these Title I schools qualify based on the number of students meeting federal poverty guidelines. Title I schools are required to use research-based teaching strategies and programs to improve student achievement. Staff must be professionally qualified and must be involved in on-going staff development. School staff studies data gathered from student assessments, parent surveys, and staff surveys to guide the school's Improvement Plan. Title I Family Engagement Plans are distributed electronically to every parent at the beginning of the school year. The plan will also be attached to the school's web page. A parent advisory panel meets twice a year to discuss school accomplishments and areas for improvement. Each Title I school has a parent resource room that houses information pertaining to child health, discipline, development, and other topics relevant to the ages of the students at that school. Additionally, a variety of parent books are available for check-out in the media center. If you need information that we do not have, please ask the media specialist. In most situations, we are able to secure resources for you to check-out. Copies of our Title I Plans are available for parent review in the school office or online via school websites. Please contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you need assistance.

Revised July 8, 2025

Parent Volunteering

Parent participation is encouraged at each of our schools (ESSA Section 1116(d)(2)(C)). We encourage parents to participate in their student's school life. An orientation for volunteers is held in the fall of each school year. If you are interested in volunteering in your child's school, please contact the Parent Involvement Coordinator at that school. He or she will be more than happy to schedule times that are convenient for you that will not disrupt class schedules.

Parent and Family Engagement

Each Title I school will have an annual parent workshop to build parent capacity to support their children. Topics may include academic support, homework help, obtaining school information, behavior management, digital citizenship, standardized test data, or college and career planning. We welcome your input for planning and evaluation of these events. We will survey participants at the conclusion of each workshop to evaluate workshop quality, obtain feedback and gather suggestions.

Comments and Concerns

Thomas County Schools has a complaint procedure that is described in detail on our website: www.tcjackets.net. To access this description, hover over the "Departments" icon, and select the "Federal Programs" link. The complaint procedure is also outlined in our Parent/Student/Teacher Handbooks. In the event that you have a complaint, we wish you to contact the school your child attends and seek assistance from the teacher or administration as an initial point of contact. If you are unable to resolve your concern, you are invited to contact the Superintendent at the Thomas County Board of Education. If you are still unsatisfied, you may contact the Georgia Department of Education via: <http://programcomplaint.doe.k12.ga.us/everestwebportal/webform.asp>.

Title I School and District Contact information:

Hand-In-Hand Primary Principal, Dee Gaines (229) 225-3908	Garrison-Pilcher Elementary Principal, Robin Webb (229) 225-4387
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Cross Creek Elementary Principal, Ashley Lane (229) 225-3900	Thomas County Middle School Principal, Deann Garcia (229) 225-4394
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Title I Non-Traditional Schools Contact information:

Thomas County Academy Director, Dr. Jim Rehberg (229) 225-3197	The Renaissance Center Director, Dr. Jim Rehberg Dean of Students, Todd Creech (229) 227-3222
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Questions:

For additional information, you may contact Dr. Bob Dechman, Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs by calling (229) 225-4380, or via email at bdechman@tcjackets.net.