Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEW

Title I Newsletter Haut Gap Middle School A Title I Schoolwide School Mr. Travis Benintendo, Principal

2025-2026

Date of Distribution: August 15, 2025

Our school is a schoolwide Title I, Part A campus, and as a parent, you have the right to be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program.

Purpose of Title I

Title I of the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* legislation is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.

Title I provides greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

Components of a Title I Schoolwide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- Schoolwide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the State's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a certified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent and family engagement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary, from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. Parents are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.

A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success. Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents within a Title I school. Opportunities for active parent participation should include, but not be limited to open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, monthly newsletters, and more.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent and family engagement expenditures.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents regarding the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a home-school compact.

The parent and family engagement policy (PFEP) explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs. A final copy of our PFEP is available for review at the front desk The home-school compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Final copies are sent home in September after parent feedback is reviewed.

Title I Participation and Feedback

Haut Gap MS school continually monitors the implementation of the Title I plan and welcomes input from parents, school staff, and community members regarding its current and future Title I plans. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact the principal at 843-559-6418. Please also **read the draft copies** of the parent and family engagement policy and the home-school compact and **give us your suggestions or comments** before we finalize them. Thank you!

Description & Explanation of Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment, and Proficiency Levels Students Are Expected to Meet

Charleston County School District provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the CCSD Board of Trustees. Textbooks used in the classrooms have been reviewed by a committee of teachers and adopted and endorsed by the State Department of Education. Specific educational programs in each school are targeted to meet the identified needs of the children in the school.

Charleston County School District administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The *SC Ready, PreACT, PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, SAT, EOC* and the *WIN (Ready to Work)* are part of the state assessment program given to students in grades three through twelve and measures student performance on the state standards. Children in prekindergarten take the *myIGDI* assessment and kindergartens take the *KRA* assessment to determine their readiness for school. To monitor student progress throughout the year, K-1st students are given the *FastBridge* assessment in Reading and Math. 6th-8th grade students are given the *MAP Growth*, K-5th are assessed using *i-Ready*, and other teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon requirements of *ESSA*, all students in grades three through twelve are expected to meet proficiency on all assessments. To assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, report cards are sent home at the end of each nine week period to all students, grades K-12. A progress report is sent home approximately four weeks into the quarter to notify parents of how their student's academics are moving along. If, at any time, you would like to speak to your child's teacher about their progress and/or grades, please schedule an appointment to speak with the teacher by calling the school at 843-559-6418.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled at Haut Gap Middle School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher/assistant is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels they are teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's/assistant's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's/assistant's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the principal at 843-559-6418 and ask to speak to them about teacher/instructional assistant certification.

South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education (SDE) has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

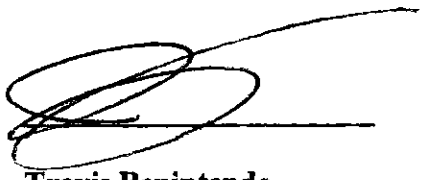
- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.
- Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated. Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 849 Learning Lane, Columbia, South Carolina 29172.
- The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint. The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.
- The final decision of the SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Education.

Title I Expenditures for 2025-2026

The *ESSA* legislation includes provisions for all children to meet proficiency on all assessments for the 2025-2026 school year. To aid in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan. This plan was jointly developed by the members of the school's Title I planning team.

- Hire 2 teachers:
- ELA teacher interventionist. Middle Level Literacy for all grades.
- P E female teacher for gender based classes.

Please feel free to review the Title I plan. It is located at the front office.



Travis Benintendo
8/18/2025