Title I Newsletter
Leaphart Elementary School STEAM Magnet
Mrs. Courtney Sims, Principal
2025 -2026

**Distributed at Parent Meeting (819/25) & Weekly Newsletter (9/12/25)*

Purpose of Title I

The purpose of Title I, Part A of Public Law 107-110 is to enable schools to provide opportunities for children served to acquire the knowledge and skills contained in the challenging state content standards and to meet the challenging state performance standards developed for all children.

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 School-Wide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- School-wide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the State's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a highly qualified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent involvement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from preschool 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.

Family Engagement and Involvement

Parental involvement 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.

Legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent involvement expenditures.

Family Engagement/Involvement Policy and School-Family-Student Compact

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

The parent involvement policy 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.

The school-parent 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.

Title I Participation

Leaphart 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 (803) 476 - 4700). Please also read the attached draft copies of the parent involvement policy and the school-parent 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

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties 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 District Five Board of Education. 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.

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The *South Carolina College-and Career-Ready Assessments* (SC READY), which is part of the state assessment program, is required for students in grades three through eight and measures student performance in ELA and MA on state standards. Levels of achievement include *Not Met, Approaches*, *Meets*, and *Exceeds*. Students in grades four through eight are also required to take the *South Carolina College-and Career Ready Assessment in science* (SC Ready). Levels of achievement include *Exemplary*, *Met*, *Approaches*, and *Not Met*. To monitor student progress throughout the year, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon state and federal requirements all students in grades three through eight are expected to score *Approaching, Meets,* or *Exceeds* on the SC READY assessment.

Parent's Right to Know

As the parent or family of a student enrolled at Leaphart, 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 is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call our Human Resources Dept. at (803) 476-8000.

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, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
- 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

Title I legislation includes provisions for all children to acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful and to afford parents meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. To aid in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan that was jointly developed by the members of the school's Title I planning team.

- Provide 2 full-time interventionist for reading
- Hire tutors to provide math intervention
- Subscription to on-line programs that support math and reading instruction (iReady, IXL, Flocabulary, etc)
- Purchase books and math tools for student learning in the classroom and home.



Courtney Sims
September 3, 2025