

**Welcome to the
Title I Annual Meeting
for Parents & Families
2025 - 2026**

Whitewater Academy

Date: August 20, 2025

Meet the Admin Team!

Ms. Bloom
Principal



Mrs. Marsh
Assistant Principal



Ms. Huffman
Assistant Principal



Mr. Fitzgerald
Dean of Students



Ms. Helms
MCL



Ms. Fisher
New Teacher Coach



Why are we here?

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, requires that each Title I School hold an Annual Meeting for parents/families/community members for the purpose of:

- Informing you of your school's participation in Title I services
- Explaining the requirements of Title I, Part A
- Explaining your rights as parents to be engaged

Meeting Overview

- What is a Title I school and what it means to be a Title I school
- Required Set-Aside for parent and family engagement
- The CMS Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- How the annual evaluation of the CMS Parent and Family Engagement Policy is conducted
- School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) in NCStar
- School-Parent Compact
- How to request the qualifications of my child's teacher(s)
- How parents will be notified if my child is taught by a teacher who is not deemed to be qualified by teacher licensing standards in the North Carolina ESSA Accountability Plan

What is a Title I school?

Title I is the largest federally funded educational program. A Title I school is a school receiving federal funds for students. The basic principle of Title I is that schools with large concentrations of low-income student receive supplemental funds to meet students' educational goals.

What does it mean to be a Title I School?

- Being a Title I school means receiving federal funding (Title I dollars) to supplement the school's existing programs. These dollars are used for the following:
 - Identifying students experiencing academic difficulties and providing timely assistance to help students meet the state's challenging content standards.
 - Purchasing supplemental staff/programs/materials/supplies
 - Conducting parent and family engagement meetings/trainings/activities
 - Recruiting/Hiring/Retaining Highly-Qualified Teachers
- Being a Title I school also means encouraging ongoing parent and family engagement and advocating for parents' rights

How are Title I funds used in our school?

- Additional staffing
- Parent Involvement
- Professional Development for Staff
- Technology - students are 1-1
- Instructional supplies and materials
- Social Emotional Support
- Classroom library books



What is the 1% set-aside and how are parents involved?

- Any Local Education Agency (LEA) or school district with a Title I Allocation exceeding \$500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of the Title I allocation for parent and family engagement.
- Of that 1%, 10% may be reserved at the LEA/district level for system-wide initiatives related to parent and family engagement. The remaining 90% must be allocated to all Title I schools in the district. In CMS, each Title I school receives its portion of the 90% to implement school-level parent and family engagement activities and events
- Title I parents have the right to provide input into decisions regarding how this money is spent. This process is completed through the School Improvement Team (SIT)

Parent and Family Engagement Allocation

- Reason: Effective daily and weekly communication is the goal for students and families. Supplies and Materials funds are used to purchase communication materials like folders and agendas to ensure all families can engage in their child's learning consistently.
- Additional Resources: Curriculum Night Materials and Dynamic Dolphin Ceremonies

What is the CMS Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- This policy addresses how the district or LEA will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. It includes the following:
 - The district's expectations for parents
 - How CMS will engage parents in decision-making
 - How the district will work to build the schools' and parents' capacities in the implementation of effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement
- Parents and families in Title I schools have the right to be engaged in the review/evaluation of this annual policy

What is the School Improvement Plan/NCStar Plan?

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is created in an online platform called NCStar and includes:

- A Comprehensive Needs Assessment
 - Goals and Strategies to Address Academic Needs of Students
 - Professional Development Needs
 - Coordination of Resources and Comprehensive Budget
 - The School's Parent and Family Engagement Goals
- Parents of students at Title I schools have the right to be engaged in the development of this plan
 - Access the SIP on our website: <https://whitewateres.cmsk12.org/>
 - UN: Guests16724 P
 - SWD: Guests16724

What is included in the School's Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- This policy addresses how the school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Components include the following:
 - How parents can be engaged in decision-making and activities
 - How parent and family engagement funds are being used
 - How information and training will be provided to parents
 - How the school will build capacity in parents and staff for strong parent and family engagement
- Parents of students at Title I schools have the right to be engaged in the development of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy

What is the School Compact?

- The compact is a commitment from the school, the parent/family, and the student, to share in the responsibility for improved academic achievement
- Parents and families of students in Title I schools have the right to be involved in the revision/review of the School Compact

Who are the parent leaders at my school?

- Kimberly Jones Whitewateracademypto@gmail.com
- Jennifer Jackson Whitewateracademypto@gmail.com
- Jasmine Izaard jasminea.izzard@cms.k12.nc.us@cms.k12.nc.us
- Krista Hance kristah.hance@cms.k12.nc.us

Family Advocate: Antonio Williams antonio1.williams@cms.k12.nc.us

Interpreter: Ileana Castillo Ileana1.castillo@cms.k12.nc.us

School Social Worker: Jamal Gardner Jamal1.Gardner@cms.k12.nc.us

School's Title I Compliance Contact: Amanda Huffman Amandal.Huffman@cms.k12.nc.us

Volunteer Opportunities

- Join parent leadership groups such as PTA, PTSA, PTSA, booster clubs, etc.
- Become a member of the School Improvement Team and/or attend meetings
- Volunteer to contact other parents/families regarding important school information
- Attend academic events occurring at your child's school
- Participate in opportunities that support school activities
- Support Teacher appreciation activities
- Assist with class parties
- Attend parent conferences
- Tutor students
- Please call Amy Geldard or email amye.geldard@cms.k12.nc.us to- learn about volunteer opportunities

How do I request the qualifications of my child's teachers?

- Title I parents and families have the right to request the qualifications of their child's teachers. The "Parent Right to Know" letter is linked to the school's website and contains the form to request the teacher's qualifications
- <https://whitewateres.cmsk12.org/>
- Requests should be completed by the school within 30 days.

How will I be notified if my child is taught by a teacher who is not Highly-Qualified?

- Being Highly Qualified in NC means you have successfully passed the licensure exams required or received alternate licensure in a way set out by NC law.
- Parents and families are notified if teachers do not meet ESSA's requirements for Highly-Qualified
- Parents may request information on teacher qualifications in writing

Parent Concerns or Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please reach out to the classroom teacher first. If the problem can not be resolved between the parent and the teacher, the principal should be contacted

laureng.bloom@cms.k12.nc.us
980-343-0003

North Carolina Standard Course of Study

- The full North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) can be viewed using the link below:
<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/>
- For more information about the NCSCOS and professional development at your school site,

Lauren Bloom

laureng.bloom@cms.k12.nc.us

980-343-0003

Some Schools Have an Additional Designation

- NCDPI will notify schools as to whether they have a special designation of ATSI or CSI in November of each year. The Every School Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each state to have a plan to measure student achievement annually
- The plan outlines how each state is being held accountable
- Title I schools can receive an additional designation based upon state End-of-Grade or End-of-Course assessments

Link to the North Carolina State Plan under ESSA:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/succeeds/>

Additional School Designations

- Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)- Exceptional Children
- Schools with these designations remain in this status for 3 years

|| **Thank you for being here!**

Questions?

Email Ms. Huffman,

Amandal.huffman@cms.k12.nc.us or call
the School, 980-343-0003

Q uestions? Course

