

Title I Calendar

Connecting Home and School

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Three years ago, President Obama signed into law the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) to replace the “No Child Left Behind Act” (NCLB). Title I is one of the titles under this Act.

ESSA helps to ensure success for students and schools. Individual states needed to develop new plans and as a result, more responsibility was placed on states to create them.

States had certain guidelines to follow when establishing their plans but were able to set their own goals and measures of progress. States selected both long term and smaller, interim goals and needed to specifically address: Proficiency on tests, English language proficiency and graduation rates. States also had to incorporate at least four indicators into their accountability systems and then decide how much each indicator would count.

Massachusetts’ ESSA Plan includes some of the following provisions:

Advance equity by upholding critical protections for all students especially for English language learners, students with disabilities and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds;

Prepare all students to succeed in college and careers by providing varied experiences and exposure to alternative programs during and after high school;

Expose students to high academic standards through the state’s recently updated framework documents in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

Administer annual assessments in reading and math from Grade 3 through 8 and once in high school through the Next-Generation MCAS Program.

Ensure that vital information from the annual assessments are provided yearly to educators, families, students and communities with a critical lens focusing on chronic absenteeism; completion of ninth grade courses and completion of a broad and challenging curriculum (including advanced coursework).

In addition to the accountability system, the Department of Education is also developing school and district report cards that will include more information that is currently shared in an easier to understand format.

The Massachusetts plan also covers social and emotional learning, health and safety issues that are important in producing an overall positive and healthy school environment.

The Role of Parents

From its early beginnings, Title I legislation has always had a strong parental involvement component. Parents play an important role in helping raise student achievement and are their children’s first teachers.

The strong partnership between home and school continues under the ESSA. The intent of the law is to raise student achievement for low-income and disadvantaged children.

Districts are required to set aside funding to carry out family engagement activities. Schools that receive Title I funds must work with parents to create a school-parent compact. Compacts outline how the school, family, and child will share responsibilities for raising achievement.

McKinney-Vento Information:

On October 1, 2016, McKinney-Vento reauthorization went into effect. A review of those changes:

- School of origin extends to the designated receiving school once a homeless student completes all the grades in his/her current school
- Transportation is provided at the request of the parent through the end of the academic year in which a student becomes permanently housed
- Homeless preschool students have all the same rights as other homeless students
- Efforts must be made to engage out of school homeless students and full/partial credit extended for work completed in a previous district
- Homeless students must receive the same college and career counseling as non-homeless students including support in completing the FASFA and verification of their status as homeless students
- Homeless education liaisons must collaborate with community providers and provide referrals to parents/guardians and unaccompanied homeless youth

Families in transition or worried that they may become homeless can contact the Homeless Liaison, who can help families understand their rights and access a variety of school- and community-based services and supports:

**Homeless Liaison: Mary Grassi, Title I Coordinator
617-349-6490, mgrassi@cpsd.us**

Sources: NAFSCE (Quick Overview of ESSA: What’s in it for Parents?) Education Week (Inside ESSA/The New Federal K-12 Law 12/8/2015); www.doe.mass.edu/mv
www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/essa/stateplan