



Title I Calendar

Connecting Home and School

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Flexibility under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Since the No Child Left Behind Act has not been reauthorized, the flexibility waiver of certain NCLB requirements are still in effect.

On February 9, 2012, Massachusetts received a flexibility waiver of certain NCLB requirements.

Why apply?

- NCLB imposed punitive labels on schools and issued a “menu” of requirements on how to improve failing schools.
- State was operating under two systems (federal and state) of classifying districts and schools. Schools were given labels (e.g. Identified for Improvement, Restructuring) and Accountability and Assistance Levels (1-5).
- A rising target of 100% of students reaching proficiency by 2013-14 (in ELA and math) was no longer helpful in identifying schools and districts most in need of assistance or intervention.
- An opportunity to focus more deliberately on setting high standards and expectations while establishing goals that are ambitious and attainable.

What has changed?

- One accountability system - utilizing the state’s five level Framework for Districts and Schools (Level 1: schools meeting gap closing goals to Level 5: lowest performing schools).
- Creation of goals that are ambitious and attainable; measuring progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps using a new 100 point Progress and Performance Index (PPI).
- District/schools have more flexibility in designing strategies to improve their lowest performing schools based on the individual school needs.
- Reduction in the minimum group size for accountability determinations from 40 to 30 students. Progress will be based on the “all students” group and high needs student group (low income, special education, English language learners and former English language learners).
- Districts no longer required to reserve Title I funds for public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES).

What will not change?

- Holding schools accountable for making progress.
- Transition to the Common Core State Standards in ELA and Math.
- A decision will be made in November as to whether the transition from current MCAS to PARCC will take place. Cambridge students took MCAS last year.
- Transition to new teacher evaluation system to better determine the effectiveness of teachers and principals.

Under NCLB, parents have the power and right to:

- Know your child’s teachers’ and para-professionals’ qualifications to ensure that your child is being taught by those who are certified and highly qualified in their subject matter.
- Know the status of your child’s school (Level), and proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Receive timely information on Title I, school performance reports, student assessment results, and other relevant information in a parent’s native language.
- Help create and/or review the school’s Title I plan and program evaluation.
- Get more involved! Title I monies earmarked for parent involvement go directly to the schools. Parents have the right to help determine how that money is used. Schools must build parental capacity!

In turn, parents have certain responsibilities under NCLB, and play an important role in helping raise student achievement. Schools that receive Title I funds must work with parents to create a “school-parent compact,” specific to their child’s academic needs. Compacts outline how the school, family, and child will share responsibilities for raising achievement. Parental responsibilities could range from helping with homework, attending parent-teacher conferences, to making decisions relevant to their child’s education.

What happens if a student becomes homeless during the course of a school year?

Homeless students have the right to access the same public education provided to other students in the school district. Therefore, homeless students have a right to remain in the school they are attending or to attend school where they are temporarily living. If the student elects to remain in the school, he or she has the right to attend that school until no longer considered homeless. Additionally, school districts must assist the student with the same transportation services to the school that are offered to other students. For further details on this topic contact Mary Grassi, the district’s McKenney-Vento Liaison at 617-349-6487.



For more information about NCLB on the internet, go to: www.nochildleftbehind.gov or www.doe.mass.edu

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2015-2016 Title I Schools include:

School-wide Programs: Fletcher-Maynard Academy, Kennedy-Longfellow, King, Morse, Graham & Parks, King Open and Peabody

The Cambridge Public Schools encourages families to become aware of what their child is learning and to support and monitor their child's education.

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