

2025-26
Ridgedale School
Annual Title I Meeting

Ridgedale School

August 15, 2025

Mrs. Donna Brunson Executive Principal

Revised 3/19/26

Why are we here?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each Title I school hold an annual Title I Meeting for families in order to:
 - inform you of your school's participation in Title I,
 - explain the requirements of Title I, and
 - explain your rights as parents and family members to be involved.

What will I learn?

- **What is a Title I school?**
- **What are my rights?**
- **What can Title I funds be used for?**
- **How does our school use Title I funds?**
- **What is the SIP (School Improvement Plan)**
- **What are our schoolwide program goals?**
- **How is parent and family engagement funded?**
- **What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?**
- **What is the School-Parent Compact?**
- **What curriculum does our school use?**
- **What tests will my child be taking?**
- **How can I be involved?**
- **Who can I contact for help?**

What is a Title I school?

- Title I was passed in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.
- Title I schools receive extra funding (Title I dollars) from the federal government. These dollars are used to:
 - identify students experiencing academic difficulties and provide assistance to help these students;
 - purchase additional staff, programs, materials, and/or supplies; and
 - conduct parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities.

What are my rights?

- **The families and Parents of Title I students have a right, by law, to:**
 - **be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level;**
 - **be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and science;**
 - **request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child (For this information contact Mrs. Brunson, Executive Principal at 865-909-9099 Ext. 52603 or donna.brunson@knoxschools.org)**
 - **request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your child. The school is required to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.**

What can Title I funds be used for?

- In general, Title I funds may be used for:
 - creating smaller class sizes,
 - hiring additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
 - providing additional training for school staff,
 - creating extra time for instruction to improve student learning
 - parent and family engagement activities, and/or
 - purchasing a variety of supplemental teaching materials, equipment, and technology.

How does Ridgedale use Title I funds?

- In 2025-26, our school was allotted approximately \$67,000.00 in Title I funding.

- We developed a **Schoolwide Improvement Plan**, which means we plan to use our funds on the following:
 - **Supplemental Staff & Stipends: 17,316.00**
 - Lead Teachers and (Staff who oversee classroom instruction and the implementation of student services)
 - **Programs/Materials/Supplies: 21,497.41**
 - CodeHS / CTE Program
 - Scholastic Magazines (Scope, Math, Science)
 - Technology Accessories / Instructional Supplies (Chromebook Cases, Chargers, Headphones)
 - Lesson Pix (Supplemental Materials)
 - Brain Pop (Supplemental Materials)
 - Boom Cards (Supplemental Materials)
 - **Teacher Professional Development: 26,756.74**
 - National Alternative Education Association (New research based strategies for dealing with students who are placed in an alternative setting for academics or behaviors, ideas for funding PBIS programs, and ideas for gaining more family engagement into their child's education)
 - Association for Middle Level Education (Research based classroom strategies designed to improve student success).
 - TAASE (Informational conference relating to current laws for students with Individual Education Plans)
 - TAMS (Tennessee Association for Middle Schools (Provides insights into classroom instructional strategies, new technology, and ideas for family engagement within individual schools)
 - **Family Engagement: 972.00**
 - Refreshments
 - Brochures

What is a SIP?

- **SIP is a School Improvement Plan. It includes:**
 - the identification of the school planning team and how they will be engaged in the planning process;
 - a needs assessment and summary of academic and non-academic data;
 - prioritized goals, strategies, and action steps to help address the academic and non-academic needs of students;
 - teacher and staff professional development needs; and
 - budgets and the coordination of resources.

- **Ridgedale welcomes any and all family representatives who would like to serve on our school planning team. If this is something you would be interested in please contact Mrs. Brunson or Mr. McGinnis**

RIDGEDALE 4 GOALS



IPG LEARNING WALKS

IPG learning walks to monitor and foster deeper implementation of KCS curricula.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Observation of restorative learning practices to assess the consistency of practices in restorative learning centers, in order to maximize student learning time.



WEEKLY PLCs

Enhancing PLC structures to support school goals and increase teacher capacity.



SPED FIDELITY & DATA

Quarterly analysis of special education data designed to monitor reading, math, and discipline connected to BIPs

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- Any **DISTRICT** with a Title I allocation exceeding \$500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of its Title I allocation for parent and family engagement.
- Of that 1%, 5% may be reserved at the district level for system-wide initiatives related to parent and family engagement. The remaining 95% must be allocated to all Title I schools in the district.
- You, as Title I parents and family members, have the right to be involved in how this money is spent.

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- **In 2025-26 Ridgedale received approximately \$975.00 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:**
 - **Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events**
 - **School Wide School Meeting / June 11, 2025**
 - **Family Engagement Meeting / April 24, 2025**
 - **School Compact Meeting / April 24, 2025**
 - **Annual Title 1 Meeting / August 15, 2025**
 - **Materials/Supplies**
 - Refreshments for families at meetings**
 - Materials and staff for child care and activities during meetings**

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

Plans that address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA, Every Student Succeeds Act

Components should include:

- how parents and families can be involved in decision-making and activities;
- how parent and family engagement funds are being used;
- how information and training will be provided to families; and
- how the school will build capacity in families and staff for strong parent and family engagement.

You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be found here:
<https://www.knoxschools.org/community-resources>
- The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared by August of 2025 on our website and Parent Square. In addition, the policy can be found by using the link or scanning the QR Code below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zd1HStH-6_IAC8bBD435NcdjkOae11dq/view?usp=sharing



What is a School-Parent Compact?

- A school-parent compact is a written commitment that outlines how the entire school community – teachers, families, and students will share the responsibility for improving academic achievement for our students.
- The compact describes how the school will:
 - provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
 - hold regular parent-teacher conferences
 - provide parents with reports on their child's progress
 - provide parents reasonable access to staff.
 - provide parents opportunities to volunteer; and
 - ensure regular two-way communication between family members and staff in a language used by the individual families.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.

What is a School-Parent Compact?

- The school-parent compact will be shared by August of 2025 on our website and Parent Square.
- In addition, Families of our alternative program will receive a copy during their child's intake orientation, as well as, by using the link or scanning the QR Code below.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TtxhvfjTfihIGry2G7yOicED9sdaSTC7ogvmXWBouEQ/edit?usp=sharing>



What curriculum does our school use?

- The Tennessee Academic Standards provide a common set of expectations for what students need know and be able to do at the end of a grade level in each content area.
- Tennessee's academic standards form the framework for everything taught at Ridgedale.
- For more information about Tennessee's academic standards, use link below.

Academic Standards

Students within our alternative program receive the same instruction, using the same curriculum and standards as their base school.

Subjects include: Math (iReady), ELA (Amplify), Social Studies, Science (Kiddom) , Health, Gym, Art, Music, and CTE

In addition, Ridgedale has incorporated an extra enrichment class to reinforce instruction given in the 4 content areas.

What tests will my child be taking?

- **Required: All content areas: Lesson Quizzes, Unit tests, MVP (Mastery View Predictive)**
- **Aimsweb Benchmarks (Reading and Math only)**
- **TNReady (T-Cap) State Mandated**
- **8th Grade only (Pre-ACT)**

- **Link to Knox County Testing Window Schedule for 2025-26 School Year**
<https://knoxschools.sharepoint.com/sites/Intercom/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FIntercom%2FShared%20Documents%2FAssessments%2FAssessment%20Calendar%20SY2526%20%2D%20Internal%20updated%202%2E19%2E26%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FIntercom%2FShared%20Documents%2FAssessments>

How can I be involved?

- **We need you! Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor. For this reason it is vital that we get input from those whose students are impacted by the decisions made during the creation of these policies. Ridgedale's 3 committees are: School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and our School Parent Compact.**
- **As stated previously, WE NEED YOU. If you would like to become a member of one or more our School Policy Teams, please contact Mrs. Brunson at 865-909-9099 Ext. 52603 or via email at donna.brunson@knoxschools.org.**

Other ways you can help us with your child's educational needs.

- Encourage attendance
- Monitor your student's grades and schoolwork (Aspen, Scorecards, Progress Reports)
- Attend family events and meetings (Fall Open House, Fall and Spring Parent Teacher Conferences, and Title 1 Meetings)
- Join one or more of our Engagement Committees (School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and our School Parent Compact.
- Read, sign, and return your student's daily scorecard-point sheets

Who to contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at: 865-909-9099
- To reach the principal, Mrs. Brunson, call: 865-909-9099 Ext. 52603
- To reach the Dean of Students, Mr. McGinnis, call: 865-909-9099 Ext. 52612
- To reach the school counselor, Dr. Broussard, call: 865-909-9099 Ext. 52604
- To reach our school nurse, Mrs. Witzeman, call: 865-909-9099 Ext. 52608
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at <https://ridgedale.knoxschools.org/>

The staff of Ridgedale would like TO SAY...

THANK YOU!

for allowing us the opportunity
to work with your student!

