

2025-2026 Annual Title I & Family Engagement Meeting

Dogwood Elementary School

March 19, 2026

Sarah Fish, Executive Principal

Why are we here?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each Title I school hold an annual meeting of Title I 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?
- 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 by calling 865-594-1929, and <https://tdoe.tncompass.org/Public/Search>, and
- 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:

- smaller class sizes,
- additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
- additional training for school staff,
- extra time for instruction (before and/or after school programs),
- parent and family engagement activities, and/or
- a variety of supplemental teaching materials, equipment, and technology.

How does our school use Title I funds?

In 2025-2026, our school was allotted approximately \$421,603.96 in Title I funding. We developed a Schoolwide Program, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:

- Family Engagement Events: Materials and snacks for these events
- Supplemental staff: 2 Classroom Teachers, Intervention Teacher, 3 Educational Assistants, Lead Teacher Supplement, Master Teacher Supplement
- Programs/Materials/Supplies/Equipment: Ron Clark App, Flocabulary Site License, Books, Other Classroom Instructional Materials,
- Teacher Professional Development: Innovative Schools Conferences, Plain Talk Conference, Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Get Your Teach On Conferences

What is the SIP?

The SIP is the 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.
- The school must include family representatives on our school planning team.

What are our schoolwide program goals?

Literacy, Math and Instructional Excellence

Literacy

Goals:

- Increase the percentage of students scoring at or above the 40th percentile in Grades K-3 on the Aimsweb assessment
- Increase the percentage of students scoring a Level 3 or above on the TCAP in grades 4-5

Action Steps:

- Collaborative data analysis and action planning through Professional Learning Communities
- Learning Walks to foster deeper implementation of curricula

Math

Goals:

- Increase the percentage of students scoring at or above grade-level on the iReady Spring diagnostic in all grades
- Increase the percentage of students scoring a Level 3 or above on the TCAP in grades 4-5

Action Steps:

- Collaborative data analysis and action planning through Professional Learning Communities
- Learning Walks to foster deeper implementation of curricula

Instructional Excellence

Goals:

- Increase the percentage of students receiving special education services in their least restrictive setting
- Decrease the number of conduct referrals and suspensions

Action Steps:

- An audit of behavior support systems
- Analysis of special education data (LRE, BIP, Progress to Goals, etc)

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 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 2025-2026, we received approximately \$6,697.89 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:

- Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events: Meet & Greet in August, Fall Festival, Art Show, Kindergarten Round-Up, PK Family Night
- Materials/Supplies: Light refreshments, books and materials for families to take home

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

These plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA. 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/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/board%20policies/I-270%20Family%20and%20Community%20Engagement.pdf>

Dogwood's Parent and Family Engagement Policy was shared on November 17, 2025 via Parent Square. In addition, paper copies of the policy were provided at our annual Title I meeting on March 19 and are available for families in our front office and during parent-teacher conferences.

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 improved academic achievement. The compact must describe how the school will:

- provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
- hold parent-teacher conferences, annually in elementary schools;
- 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 meaningful communication between family members and staff, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.

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 every summer and can be found here:
<https://dogwoodes.knoxschools.org/student-family-resources/student-handbook>
- In addition, paper copies of the policy were provided at our annual Title I meeting on March 19 and are available for families in our front office and during parent-teacher conferences.

What curriculum does our school use?

- The Tennessee Academic Standards provide a common set of expectations for what students will know and be able to do at the end of a grade for each subject area.
- For more information about Tennessee's academic standards, see:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/instruction/academic-standards.html>

Dogwood's curriculum is aligned with KCS:

- Literacy: Benchmark
- Math: iReady
- Science: Solid Starts (K-2) and Inspire Science (3-5)
- Social Studies: Studies Weekly (K-2) and Gallopade (3-5)

What tests will my child be taking?

- All K-5 students take the Aimsweb Reading assessment three times a year
 - a. To be considered on or close to grade-level, students should score at or above the 40th percentile
 - b. Students who score below this may receive Tier 2 or 3 reading intervention or tutoring
- All K-5 students take the iReady Math diagnostic three times a year
 - a. Students who score 1 or more grade levels behind may receive Tier 2 or 3 math intervention or small group support during the math block
- Students in Grades 3-5 take the state TCAP assessment in Reading, Math and Science in April of every year. Students are expected to score at a Level 3 or higher to demonstrate grade-level proficiency.

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.

- To get involved with the SIP, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and/or the School Parent Compact; please reach out to Ms. Fish at sarah.fish@knoxschools.org

How can I be involved?

Other ways to support your student at Dogwood Elementary:

- Ensure your student is present every day and on time (school starts at 7:45am)
- Monitor grades and schoolwork on Aspen;
- Attend family events and meetings such as our Fall Festival, Art Show and Meet & Greet;
- Volunteer in classrooms;
- Join our PTO; and
- Attend our Community Schools Site Steering monthly meetings

Who can I contact for help?

For general questions, call the front office at: 865-579-5677

Principal: Sarah Fish, sarah.fish@knxschools.org

Assistant Principals: Myisha Dorsey, myisha.dorsey@knoxschools.org

Gina Vandergriff, gina.vandergriff@knoxschools.org

School Counselors: Candace Jackson, candace.jackson@knoxschools.org

Anna Chappell, anna.chappell@knoxschools.org

Community Schools Coordinator: Baylee Armstrong, baylee.armstrong@knoxschools.org

To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at:
<https://dogwoodes.knoxschools.org/>

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...

THANK YOU!