# Title I Newsletter
# Independence Elementary
# A Title I Schoolwide School
# Mrs. Adrienne Young, Principal
# 2026-2027

## Purpose of Title I

Title I (of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act legislation) is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.

Title I provides greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

## Components of a Title I Schoolwide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- Schoolwide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the State's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a highly qualified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent and family engagement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from preschool to elementary, from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

## Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and Family Engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. Parents and family members are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.

A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success. Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents and family members within a Title I school. Opportunities for active parent and family participation should include, but not be limited to open house, parent and family engagement workshops, school-parent and family compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, monthly newsletters, and more.

The Every Student Succeeds Act legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent and family involvement expenditures.

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents and families regarding the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a school-parent and family compact.

The parent and family involvement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents and family members to review and improve parent and family engagement programs and describes how parents and families can participate in planning these programs.

The school-parent and family compact outlines how parents, families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school, parents and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

## Title I Participation

Independence continually monitors the implementation of the Title I plan and welcomes input from parents, families, school staff, and community members regarding its current and future Title I plans. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact the principal at Independence. Thank you!

## Description & Explanation of Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment, and Proficiency Levels Students Are Expected to Meet

Rock Hill Schools administer a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The South Carolina College-and-Career-Ready Assessment (SC READY) English Language Arts (ELA) and Math is given to students in grades 3-8 and Science is given to students in grades 4 and 6. The assessment measures student performance on the state standards.

For each SC READY test, four overall performance levels will be reported:

- Exceeding Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Approaching Expectations
- Not Meeting Expectations

## Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled at Independence Elementary, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the Personnel Department at 981-1024.

## South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education (SDE) has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.
- Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated. Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
- The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint. The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.
- The final decision of the SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

## Title I Expenditures for 2025-2026

The SC Ready test results will be used for school and school district accountability purposes for the 2024-2025 school year. The assessment results will also be used for federal accountability purposes (Every Student Succeeds Act). To aid in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan which was jointly developed by the members of the school's Title I planning team.

- A math coach was hired to support teachers in professional development
- A remediation/enrichment block has been scheduled for 30 minutes on four days per week.
- The School Improvement Plan has been written to provide a comprehensive focus on all grade levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

_____

Adrienne Young

9-23-2026