November 2026

Dear Dobbs Ferry School District Families,

Welcome to the new school year! In the Dobbs Ferry School District, we believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to every student's academic success and personal growth.

In accordance with District Policy 1900 (Title I Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement), our district is committed to fostering regular, two-way, and meaningful communication. We actively encourage parents and guardians to serve as equal partners in their children's education—whether through planned home reading and learning activities, participating in school events, or contributing to district advisory committees and decision-making processes.

Understanding Our Federal Grant Allocations

To support our high standards of academic achievement and continuously enhance instruction, our district receives federal grant funding under the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). While districts with significantly larger allocations develop a detailed Title I plan, due to the limited allocations that we receive, we provide the following summary of our work. For the upcoming school year, our funding from three ESSA "title grants" is allocated across three key areas:

- **Title I, Part A – *Improving Basic Programs* (~$75,000):** Dedicated to foundational skills, these funds support a portion of the salary for our District Literacy Coordinator. This allocation directly reinforces our strategic focus on strengthening reading and writing instruction across early and middle grades with the implementation of the Bookworms Reading and Writing Program at K-5, the literacy consultant work with our ELA teachers in the middle school, and our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in both buildings.
- **Title II, Part A – *Supporting Effective Instruction* (~$20,000):** Allocated toward Professional Development, these funds provide our teachers, specialist staff, and administrators with high-quality training and instructional strategies in line with the board-approved Professional Learning Plan.

- **Title IIIA – *English Language Learners* ($11,329)** Funding is designed to improve our ELL students' access to Tier 1 instruction and instructional resources. This will be accomplished professional development for faculty and administration, development of community partnerships, and family engagement nights that focus on core curricular areas. .
- **Title IV, Part A – *Student Support and Academic Enrichment* (~$10,000):** Designated for Effective Use of Technology-Related Professional Development, including using data to improve instruction, and ensuring our educators are fully equipped to integrate educational technology and digital literacy and fluency into daily instruction.

Opportunities for Family Engagement & Input

Policy 1900 outlines clear pathways for all families—including those with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and migratory families—to participate in our educational community:

1. **Capacity Building & Home Learning:** Throughout the year, we host Principal Chats, PTSA programs, family math and reading nights, and share updates via newsletters and our website. These opportunities offer strategies for monitoring your child's progress, understanding state learning standards, and supporting literacy, mathematics, and technology use at home.
2. **Program Planning & Feedback:** Parents and guardians have the right to participate in the annual review of our Title I plan. If you have comments or feedback regarding our Title I plan, you may submit them to Mr. Slentz or me.
3. **Inclusive Communications:** School notices, meeting announcements, and program details are provided in clear formats and translated or adapted upon request to ensure equal access for all families.

Get Involved

We invite you to join us in shaping a successful year. Keep an eye out for upcoming district announcements, PTSA meeting schedules, and school-level discussions. Your insights, feedback, and active involvement make a vital difference in our school culture.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to the students of Dobbs Ferry.

Sincerely,



Dr. Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski
Districtwide Coordinator, ESSA Programs and Family Engagement