

# WAYS PARENTS CAN ENGAGE IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION!

Become active in your Title I Program by doing the following:

**LEARN** more about the school, curriculum, special programs, Title I, and your rights and responsibilities

**TEACH** your child in ways that will add to what the teacher is doing

**KNOW** your rights because knowledge is power

**PARTICIPATE** and support your child academically at school and home

**MAKE DECISIONS** about your child's education and academic program

**KEEP IN CONTACT** with your child's teacher through phone, e-mail, online, or face-to-face conversations



# A FAMILY'S GUIDE to Title I

## This brochure was designed by the Family-School Partnership Program

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## EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

In December 2015, the U.S. Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The new law named the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) focuses on the clear goal of fully preparing all students for success in college and careers.

### REWARD SCHOOLS

Title I schools that are either among the State's highest performing schools or schools with significantly high progress are identified annually. Highest Performing Reward Schools are among the highest 5% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) Content Mastery Category Performance score. High Progress Reward Schools are among the highest 10% of Title I schools in the state based on the school's 3 year average CCRPI Progress score.

### SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENT

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the Georgia Department of Education will use a new method to identify schools that need additional support and improvement. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act, the new designations will be Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, first identified in the 2018-2019 school year, and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools, first identified in the 2019-2020 school year. When CSI and TSI schools are identified, schools may or may not have been a Priority or Focus school in previous years; however, these schools will no longer have the Priority or Focus school designation.

*For more information on the status of your school, please visit the Division of School and District Effectiveness website at <http://bit.ly/georgiadsde> or speak with an administrator at your school.*

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**Every Student Succeeds Act  
(ESSA) of 2015**

## WHAT IS TITLE I?

**Title I is the largest federally funded program for elementary, middle, and high schools. Title I helps students, teachers, and parents!**

*Through Title I, money is given to school districts around the country based on the number of low-income families in each district. Each district uses its Title I money for extra educational services for children most in need of educational help. The focus of the Title I program is on helping these students meet the same high standards expected of all children.*

## TITLE I PROGRAMS CAN HELP:

- Children do better in school and feel better about themselves
- Teachers understand the needs and concerns of students and parents
- Parents understand their child and be more engaged in the child's education



### What is My Role in Supporting My Student's Success?

Parents are an important part of the Title I team and are partners with the school in helping their students achieve.

As the parent of a child in a Title I school, you have the right to:

- Be *engaged* in the planning and implementation of the parent and family engagement policy and program in your school
- *Ask* to read the progress reports on your child and school
- *Request* information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessionals including the degrees and certifications held, and whether the teacher is certified in their respective area of instruction
- Help to *decide* if Title I is meeting your child's needs, and offer suggestions for improvement
- *Ask* about your child's school designation under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Part A
- *Know* if your child has been assigned or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification, licensure requirements, or district requirements for certification
- Help *develop* your school's plan for how parents and schools can work together



### What is the State's Role in Supporting My Student's Success?

The Georgia Department of Education is required to carry out the following actions under Title I:

- Partner with other agencies and institutions to provide leadership and guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in accord with Section 1116, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to enable parents to become strongly involved in their children's education
- Disseminate to LEAs and schools information about effective family engagement practices that:
  - » Make use of the most current professional research
  - » Foster high achievement by all students
  - » Lower the barriers to greater participation by parents in the process of review and improvement in school planning
- Provide parents with an easy-to-understand annual state report card regarding student achievement and the professional qualifications of instructional staff
- Review the progress of each LEA annually to determine:
  - » If each LEA is carrying out its responsibilities regarding assessment, family engagement, school improvement and support, and the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
- Monitor compliance with Title I law, including review of the LEA's parent and family engagement policies and practices

### What is the School District's Role in Supporting My Student's Success?

Local educational agencies (LEAs) are defined as school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools that are responsible for the following actions:

- Plan and implement educational programs, activities, and procedures as required under Title I that engage parents
- Reserve 1% of Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities if the LEA receives more than \$500,000
- Develop a parent and family engagement policy with the participation of parents
- Provide full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and parents of migratory children, and when appropriate, in a language and format that they can understand
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy and implement changes based upon the findings of the evaluation
- Build parent capacity by providing literacy and technology trainings that will help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement
- Build capacity of school staff by providing resources that will assist staff in communicating with parents and working in partnership for students' academic success.

### What is the School's Role in Supporting My Student's Success?

Some Title I schools are schoolwide programs. This means that school staff work to improve the school's educational program in an effort to increase the achievement of all students, particularly those who are low achieving and thus could benefit from extra supports or services. Other schools may have a targeted assistance program, which means that only certain students and their parents can benefit from the additional services Title I provides. Title I schools are responsible for the following actions:

- Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the school parent and family engagement policy
- Develop jointly, with the parents of participating students, a school-parent compact focused on academic achievement
- Inform parents in an understandable language and format
- Offer parent meetings at various times or in various formats (schools may also pay for transportation and child care, when reasonable and necessary)
- Provide information to parents about the state standards, curriculum, and assessments and how parents can monitor their child's progress
- Build parent capacity by coordinating and integrating parent programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs