

# Ways parents can **GET INVOLVED!**

*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 telephone, e-mail, or face-to-face conversations

## Georgia's ESEA Waiver

In 2012, the Georgia Department of Education (Department) was granted an ESEA Flexibility Waiver that allows school districts greater flexibility in designing a learning program tailored to meet the academic needs of individual schools. Under Georgia's Flexibility Waiver, certain Title I schools are designated as Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert schools and these designations help determine the design of the tailored learning program. Title I schools will hold the designation of simply being a Title I school or will be defined by the following designation descriptions:

**Reward Schools** – are Title I schools identified each year that are among the state's highest-performing schools (top 5 percent of all Title I schools or the highest graduation rates over a number of consecutive years) or schools with significantly high progress (top 10 percent of all Title I, highest growth in student academic performance, or highest growth in graduation rates over a number of consecutive years).

**Priority Schools** – are Title I schools that are among the lowest 5 percent of schools in the state based on student test scores and their lack of growth over a number of consecutive years or Title I high schools with graduation rates less than 60 percent over a number of consecutive years.

of students or are Title I high schools with graduation rates less than 60 percent over a number of consecutive years that are not identified as Priority Schools.

**Title I Alert School** – may be both Title I and non-Title I schools identified each year that are performing significantly below the state average in its graduation rate or in test scores for a particular group of students, or its test scores are significantly below the state average for a particular subject area.

In addition, the Department's ESEA Flexibility Waiver outlines Georgia's new Statewide Accountability System - the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI serves as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The CCRPI provides a score between 0-100 for each school and each school system, and that score measures how well the school and school system are doing in preparing their students to be successful in college and/or career.

*For more information on the status of your school, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/pekb2dt> or speak with an administrator at your school.*

**Focus Schools** – are Title I schools with some of the largest gaps in student achievement or graduation rates between subgroups



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Printed June 2014  
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## A Parent's Guide to Title I



Elementary and  
Secondary Education Act  
(ESEA) of 1965



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 all students meet the same high standards expected of all children.

# What is Title I?

Title I is the largest federally funded program for elementary, middle, and high schools.

## 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 involved in the child's education



## Title I helps students, teachers and parents!

### 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 all students achieve.

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

- » Be **involved** in the planning and implementation of the parent involvement 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) 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 new Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- » **Know** if your child has been assigned, or taught by a teacher that is not highly qualified for at least four consecutive weeks
- » 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:

- » Partner with other agencies and institutions to provide leadership and guidance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in accord with Section 1118, Parental Involvement, of ESEA to enable parents to become strongly involved in their children's education
- » Disseminate to LEAs and schools information about effective parental involvement 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, parental involvement, school improvement and support, and the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
- » Monitor compliance with Title I law, including review of the LEA's parental involvement 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 involve parents
- » Reserve 1% of Title I funds for parental involvement activities if the LEA receives more than \$500,000
- » Develop a parental involvement 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 annual parent surveys and implement changes based upon the results of those surveys
- » Build capacity by providing early literacy and technology trainings that will help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement

### 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:

- » Send notifications to parents about the school's policy in an understandable language and format
- » Hold an annual meeting, at a convenient time for parents, to discuss the school's parental involvement plan, budget, how funding is spent and the rights of parents to be involved
- » Develop jointly, with the parents of participating students, a school-parent compact
- » Offer parental meetings at various times (schools may also pay for transportation and childcare, when reasonable and necessary)
- » Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the school parental involvement policy
- » Build capacity by supporting the development of parent advisory councils or parent leadership teams
- » Provide information to parents about the state standards and curriculum and how parents can monitor their child's progress

To learn more or view Title I, Part A Parental Involvement, Section 1118 of ESEA in its entirety, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html>