

James A. Garfield Local Schools Title One Parent Handbook



2023/2024

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Title 1 Staff

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Principals

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Title I Overview

James A. Garfield Elementary School receives federal funding through Title 1. These funds are used to provide supplemental instruction to students who are in need of assistance in the area of reading and during some school years in the area of mathematics. We provide services to struggling readers in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Title 1 is a federally funded education program that works to give all children a chance to learn at higher academic standards. Its purpose is to prevent failure by ensuring that more children have access to small group instruction including children who:

- Have trouble reading
- Read below their grade level
- Have trouble understanding what they read
- Have difficulty with math

Title I Services

Title 1 provides additional support for students experiencing academic difficulties. Students receive forty minutes of small group tutoring every school day. Kindergarten students receive forty minutes of tutoring beginning in January. Additional support may include:

- Additional teachers and assistants to work with very small groups or one-on-one.
- Additional training for staff
- Tutoring for eligible students
- Information and workshops for parents

Title I Selection

Every student that attends James A. Garfield Elementary School is considered for Title One services. Students are selected for Title 1 on the basis of multiple, educationally related, objective criteria. Examples of criteria used for students selection could include: teacher recommendation, kindergarten readiness tests, report card grades, classroom tests, informal reading inventories, classroom observation, computer based assessments (STAR, Benchmarks, Acadience, etc.). These scores are then combined to create a Title One ranking and determine student eligibility.

If you would like a copy of your child's scores and ranking, please contact Mrs. Craine

Duration of Service

Most children in Title 1 will stay in the program for a full school year, but some children will progress to grade level quicker. If your child is one of these, s/he will leave the program mid-year to make room for another child who needs extra help. Every school year a new selection list is created. You will be notified every fall if your child qualifies for Title I. If you would like a copy of your child's scores and ranking, please contact Mrs. Craine

Use of Title I funding

School decisions on how funds are used are made on the school level in consultation with faculty, parents, community and the school's leadership committee. Title I can only supplement a school's program; it cannot replace those activities currently funded by the district. Currently, the vast majority of our title funds are used to cover salary expenses to provide small group tutoring.

Parent Involvement

Parental involvement is one of the most important elements for Title I success. The mission of the James A. Garfield Title I Parental Involvement Program is to promote and encourage parents to become involved in all facets of their children's education and to support James A. Garfield Elementary School's mission to serve our students by providing educational opportunities for all to become lifelong learners and productive members of society. As a parent, you are part of the Title I team. You may help your child succeed by:

- Working with your child at home
- Volunteering at school

James A. Garfield Elementary School's Title I program also needs your input to:

- Determine program goals
- Plan and carry out programs
- Evaluate programs

Title I meetings are a great time to learn more about Title I, give input and connect with other parents, teachers, and administrators. Contact Mrs. Craine or your child's tutor to find out when the school's annual Title I meeting and the Parent Advisory Committee meetings will be held. PTO meetings are also a great place to gain information and to contribute as a member of the school team.

Supporting your child

Here are some helpful hints about how you and James A. Garfield Elementary can work together to create a successful learning environment for your child.

You know your child best. It's up to you to:

- Read with your child daily
- Share information about your child's interests and abilities with teachers.
- Ask to see progress reports on your child's school to make sure it is reaching goals for improvement.
- Update your child's teacher and school about changes at home or in your child's health.
- Notice whether your child's needs are being met in school.
- Learn about the Title I program and what it has to offer your child.
- Monitor your child's progress by reviewing tests, report cards, and other assessments.
- Ask teachers for more information on his or her progress toward grade level goals.
- Speak up if you have concerns or notice any problems. Please don't criticize the school, teachers, or principal in front of your child.

Know your child's school

- Read newsletters and notices.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Request additional meetings with the classroom teacher if you need them.
- Attend school events such as open houses, family activity nights, PTO events and programs.

Notice of Right to Know Teacher Qualifications

Parents have the right to know about the teaching qualifications of your child's classroom teacher in a school receiving Title I funds. We are pleased to report that all teachers at James A. Garfield Elementary School have met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for their respective grade level and subject area. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act requires that any local school district receiving Title I funds must notify parents that they may ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher.

These qualifications include:

1. Whether the teacher has met the Ohio teacher licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher provides your child instruction.

2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status that waives state licensing requirements.
3. The undergraduate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification (such as National Board Certification) held by the teacher and the field of discipline of certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Parents may ask for this information by sending a letter of request to Mrs. Craine at James A. Garfield Elementary School, 10207 State Route 88, Garrettsville, Ohio 44231. Be sure to include the following information with your request: child's full name, parent/guardian's full name, address and teacher's name.

State Testing

Students attending James A. Garfield Elementary School participate in AIR testing as mandated by the State of Ohio. AIR testing is administered in third through sixth grade in the subject areas listed below:

- 3rd grade- English Language Arts, Math
- 4th grade- English Language Arts, Math
- 5th grade- English Language Arts, Math, Science
- 6th grade- English Language Arts, Math

In addition to the above testing, a diagnostic reading assessment will be administered to students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Garfield Elementary utilizes the STAR or Acadience reading assessment to determine whether students are on-track in reading per the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Students in first and second grades will be given the Benchmark Assessment as well.

Parents may request information regarding state testing requirements, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and district testing policies by sending a letter of request to Principal Craine at James A. Garfield Elementary School, 10207 State Route 88, Garrettsville, Ohio 44231 or via email to rcraine@jagschools.org. The requested information will be provided in a timely manner.