**Parents’ Guide to Title I Programs at**

**Alburgh School**

**What is Title I?**

Title I is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to states and school districts to meet the needs of educationally at risk students.  Some Title I schools offer school wide programs available to all students, while some offer a targeted assistance program for eligible students.  Both program types provide extra educational assistance beyond the regular classroom.

**What is the purpose of Title I funding?**

According to the US Department of Education, the purpose of Title I funding *“is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.”*

**What do Title I programs offer?**

Supports offered through Title I include:

* small group instruction in or outside the classroom to supplement and support practices to increase classroom learning
* extra time for teaching students the skills they need
* a variety of teaching methods to reach academic goals
* additional teaching materials which supplement a student’s regular instruction
* instructional goals targeted to your student’s needs
* opportunities for professional learning for school staff

**How can I get involved?**

You can influence the success of your child by becoming an active participant in your child’s school.

**Communicate:** Stay informed and respond in a timely fashion to communications from your child’s teacher and school and from Grand Isle Supervisory Union.

**Be an example:**Demonstrate the importance of education by reading, attending school events (like parent teacher conferences and open houses), and chatting with your child about school.

**Volunteer:** Volunteer at your child’s school.  Consider helping with extracurricular activities and field trips.  Participate in and support parent involvement at school.

**Provide Support:**Help your child with class work, homework, and future education plans.

**Get involved:**Join parent committees (like your school’s PTO) and district and school planning teams.

**Collaborate with the community:**  Participate in parent activities with other families.  Tap into local community resources (e.g., libraries, universities, community centers) to increase awareness of services and opportunities available to your child.

**Celebrate your student’s progress:** Acknowledge your child’s progress when new skills are learned and goals are met.

**Parental Rights**

**Teacher Qualifications:**The Every Student Succeeds Act requires schools that receive Title 1 money to notify parents that they can ask for and receive specific information about a teacher's qualifications. As a parent of Alburgh School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

* If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction;
* If the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived;
* The type of college degree major the teacher has and the field of discipline for any graduate degree or certificate; and
* If your child is receiving Title I services from paraprofessionals and, if so, his/her qualifications.

If you would like any of this information concerning your child's teacher, please contact principal, Beth Hemingway.

**Assessment:**Parents of students in Title I schools have the right to request information about any State or local education policy regarding student participation in Federal, State, or locally required assessments, including information about policy, procedure, or parental rights to opt children out of assessments, where applicable.  For information, visit the Curriculum page on the GISU website, or ask your school principal.

**Home and School Compact**

The GISU Home and School Compact is an agreement between home and school regarding the commitments to successful learning. This is necessary to fulfill our educational purpose and mission to provide each student with the knowledge and skills necessary to become an independent learner, a contributing member of the community, and a responsible citizen.  Sharing responsibilities and becoming a Home-School Team can make the winning difference in student success.

**COMMITMENT**

The Alburgh School’s purpose is to support the students, families, and Grand Isle’s Community, and likewise, it is the family’s responsibility to support the child and the school community. Together, families, school staff and students will do our best to meet the expectations of this compact in the categories set forth below.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STANDARDS:**

*Alburgh School will implement strategies that foster continued public support for very high performance of all learners in our community.*

Parents/Guardians will:

* become involved in at least one extracurricular activity with their student during the school year.
* open lines of communication with staff and administration.

School Staff will:

* strive to become involvedin an extra-curricular community event.
* conduct regular communication with families/guardians.

Students will:

* become involved with their community.
* will communicate with their parents/guardians regarding school events and student responsibilities.

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS:**

*All students will achieve challenging academic standards*.

Parents/Guardians will:

* send children to school on time and ready to learn.
* read with children at least 20 minutes a night.
* show interest in school work and learning.
* have high expectations for academic work.

School Staff will:

* present appropriate challenges for all students.
* establish clear standards across the curriculum.
* act on the belief that every child can learn.
* accommodate different learning styles.

Students will:

* put forth their best effort.
* know the assignments and complete on time.

**SOCIAL STANDARDS:**

*All Members of the Alburgh School District will demonstrate courtesy, respect, responsibility, and safety for themselves and others.*

Parents/Guardians:

* support teachers to enforce reasonable consequences for student behavior.
* communicate issues that would affect their child.
* model respect for school, staff, and students.

School Staff will:

* support consistent discipline.
* communicate effort, achievement and growth.
* model respect and caring for students, parents, and colleagues.

Students will:

* support a respectful school environment.
* communicate in respectful and skillful ways.
* model appropriate behaviors and self-control.

Please share your thoughts, suggestions, questions, and/or ideas regarding this compact.  It is hoped that this compact will be helpful for discussions between teachers and parents/guardians about how better student performance can be encouraged and achieved.