

## What is Title I?

The Parents Right to Know is distributed to the parents or guardians of students attending Title I schools. Parents can be assured that they will be informed of their child's level of achievement on Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) and other assessments throughout the school year. Please read below about your rights to know concerning the qualifications of teachers.

### Parents Right to Know

#### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1112(e) PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW—**

(A) IN GENERAL—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

(i) Whether the student's teacher—

(I) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

(II) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and

(III) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

(ii) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

(B) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**—In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph

(A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent of a child who is a student in such school, with respect to such student—

(i) Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part; and

(ii) timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

(2) **Testing transparency.**—

(A) In general.--At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.

(B) Additional information.--Subject to subparagraph (C), each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the local educational agency's website and, where practicable, on the website of each school served by the local educational agency) for each grade served by the local educational agency, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with section 1111, other assessments required by the State, and where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required districtwide by the local educational agency, including—

(i) the subject matter assessed;

(ii) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;

(iii) the source of the requirement for the assessment; and

(iv) where such information is available--

(I) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and

(II) the time and format for disseminating results.

**Parents may request:**

- Whether a teacher is state certified.
- Whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status.
- The bachelor's degree major of the teacher and any other graduate degree major or certification.
- Whether a child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out.
- Information on required assessments that include:
  - subject matter tested
  - purpose of the test
  - source of the requirement (if applicable)
  - amount of time it takes students to complete the test
  - time and format of disseminating results

**The process for requesting information:**

- Parents, guardians, or the general public may make request, either in writing or verbally, directly to the school or district office.

**The process for providing information:**

- Upon receipt of either a verbal or written request, the information will be provided in a timely manner.
- Requested information will be provided in the same manner in which it was received, i.e. email or letter.

The goal of Title I is to ensure that all students, especially those from a lower economic status, receive a fair, equal and significant opportunity to acquire a high- quality education. All public schools in St. Johns County receiving Title I funds are classified as school-wide Title I schools. This entitles all students attending a Title I school the opportunity to participate in and receive all additional academic support supplemented through Title I funds. The Title I Department helps schools:

- Comply with Title I regulations;
- Inform parents about Title I guidelines;
- Involve parents in appropriate Title I initiatives to include family literacy activities, trainings, and meetings;
- Provide accommodations for parents to further enable their participation; and
- Offer instruction and materials to parents to enhance their child's academic development.

### **Title I Schools:**

- Central Elementary School
- South Elementary School
- Everglades Elementary School
- Seminole Elementary School
- North Elementary School
- Yearling Middle School
- Osceola Middle School
- Okeechobee Achievement Academy
- Okeechobee High School
- Okeechobee Freshman Campus

### **Florida Standards:**

The Florida Standards define the rigorous skills and knowledge that need to be effectively taught and learned for students to be ready to succeed academically in college courses and technical programs.

Individualized Student Interventions

Each Title I school is provided additional school resources to meet the needs of the students. Students who are in need of academic support are provided a Response to Intervention (RtI) plan to address their specific academic needs. Parents are encouraged to be part of these meetings, and to take an active role in their child's education. The state legislature has provided each school with flexibility to meet the unique needs of the students they serve.

### **Parent & Family Engagement Plan:**

Parent Family Engagement Plans are created to ensure the meaningful participation of parents in schools. Schools that receive Title I funding are required to have a Parent Family Engagement Plan. This policy addresses parental involvement activities and the means to improve communication between the home and school. The Title I Parent Family Engagement Plan is included in the School Improvement Plan and on the school website. Hard copies are available at the school site.

Research indicates that students improve academically when their parents are actively involved. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child's education by:

- Knowing what Florida Standards their child is expected to master;
- Attending the annual Title I Annual Meeting & Open House and other school meetings and activities;
- Conferencing with school personnel and completing a School/Parent Compact;
- Completing the school needs assessment survey;
- Assisting in the development of the Parent Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) and other Title I initiatives; and
- Talking to their child about school and reinforcing learning at home.

## **School-Parent Compact:**

The School/Parent Compact is an agreement between parents, students, and teachers. The purpose of the compact is to establish a partnership between the home and school, which is necessary to maximize student learning. Compacts are created at the beginning of each school year during a parent/teacher conference and should be reviewed, evaluated, and modified throughout the year.

## **Title I Funding:**

Title I funds are appropriated annually to supplement schools having the highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. Those funds are used to:

- Extend learning opportunities for students needing additional academic support;
- Train teachers and paraprofessionals;
- Hire supplemental teachers and paraprofessionals;
- Purchase instructional equipment and intervention materials; and
- Support parent involvement activities.

## **Title I School Responsibilities:**

Establish strategies that provide all students an opportunity to meet the Florida Standards.

- Provide remediation to students experiencing difficulty mastering the Florida Standards.
- Develop a school-based Parent Involvement Plan jointly with parents.
- Hold an annual Title I open meeting for parents.
- Prepare a School/Parent Compact jointly with parents, teachers and students.
- Offer a needs assessment survey to parents.
- Offer professional development for teachers.
- Follow best practices regarding delivery of instruction.
- Create strategies to increase parent involvement to include authentic parent/teacher conferencing.
- Establish effective transitions from early childhood programs into kindergarten.
- Include teachers and parents in decision-making processes.

