



Purpose of Title I

Title I is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.

Title I provides greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

Parent Involvement in Title I Planning

The school district is continually monitoring the implementation of its Title I plan and welcomes input from parents regarding its current and future Title I plans. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the District's Title I plan, please contact King Laurence, Director of Federal Programs, 641-2403.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call Human Resources at 641-2464.

Curriculum and Assessments

Aiken County Public Schools provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the Aiken County Board of Education. Textbooks used in the classrooms have been reviewed by a committee of teachers and adopted and endorsed by the State Department of Education. Specific educational programs in each school are targeted to meet the identified needs of the children in the school.

Aiken County Public Schools administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) is given in the spring to students in grades three through eight and will measure student performance on the state standards. Children in first grade take Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for Primary Grades. Children in second through ninth grade take Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). These tests determine the instructional level of each student and allow for individualized instruction. Beginning in the tenth grade, the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) is administered. This test is in accordance with *No Child Left Behind* and measures students' academic achievement on high school academic standards. To monitor student progress throughout the year, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon requirements of *No Child Left Behind*, all students in grades three through eight are expected to perform at the "Met" or "Exemplary" level on PASS, and high school students are expected to pass HSAP at a level of three or four by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

SC Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.
- Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated. Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
- The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint. The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.

Summary of Title I Plan for District-Wide Activities for 2010-2011

The distribution of Title I funds to a school is based upon the number of students in the school who qualify for free and reduced lunch. For the 2010-2011 school year, Aiken County Public Schools allocated 4.8 million dollars to thirty-two public schools. These resources were distributed to schools where needs are the greatest and in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

The portion of Title I funds not allocated to schools are expended on district-wide Title I activities to assist in improving the instructional program in all Title I schools and to ensure that the schools and the district continue to be in compliance with *No Child Left Behind* regulations. If you have questions regarding the Title I Plan for District-Wide Activities, please contact King Laurence, Director of Federal Programs, 641-2403.

District-Wide Title I Expenditures for 2010-2011

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation includes provisions for all children to meet the state's proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. To assist in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the District's Title I plan, which was jointly developed by the members of the district's Title I planning team.

- Fund transportation costs associated with school choice in School Improvement Schools
- Contract with Supplemental Educational Service Providers to provide tutoring to eligible students in select School Improvement Schools
- Employ Title I Coordinators to assist schools with fulfilling program planning, implementation, and *No Child Left Behind* legislative requirements
- Provide seven student service workers to serve as liaisons between the home and school
- Provide a parenting coordinator, teacher, and three instructional aides to work at Freedman Parenting Center and Crescent Cities Parenting Center
- Provide five instructional coaches to assist teachers in language arts and math instructional strategies
- Provide opportunities for ongoing high-quality professional development

District-Wide Title I Parent Involvement Activities

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation requires school districts to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement. The parent involvement activities listed below are included in the district's Title I plan. This plan was jointly developed by the members of the district's Title I Planning Team.

- Disseminate *No Child Left Behind* information to parents in an understandable format
- Provide parent resource information to schools for the purpose of improving student academic achievement and school performance

District Parent Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school district receiving Title I, Part A funds jointly develops with and distributes to parents a written parent involvement policy that contains required information of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. This parent involvement policy establishes the district's expectations for parent involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent involvement activities. If you would like to provide input on this policy, please contact King Laurence, Director of Federal Programs, 803-641-2403. Below is Part I of the parent involvement policy for Aiken County Public Schools.

The Aiken County Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will provide programs, activities, and procedures to involve parents in all of its schools receiving Title I funds. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent involvement policies and school-parent compacts meet the requirements of the legislation.
- The school district will include this districtwide parent involvement policy in its Title I district plan.
- In carrying out the parent involvement requirements for Title I, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. This includes providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format in a language parents understand.
- If the district's Title I plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when it is submitted to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of participating children in decisions about how the funds reserved for parent involvement are spent, and the school district will ensure that at least 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will go by the following definition of parent involvement, and the district expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring —
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
 - the implementation of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.
- The school district will inform parents and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the state.

The entire District Parent Involvement Policy can be viewed at www.aiken.k12.sc.us.