



LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Working Together for Excellence Every Day."

Why are we here?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires that each Title I School hold an Annual Meeting of Title I parents for the purpose of...

- Informing you of your school's participation in Title I
- Explaining the requirements of Title I
- Explaining your rights as parents to be involved
- Informing you of School-Wide status and school designation
Priority, Alert, Focus and Reward



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What does it mean to be a Title I School?

- ▣ **Being a Title I school means receiving Federal funding (Title I dollars) to supplement the school's existing programs.**

These dollars are used for...

- Identifying students experiencing academic difficulties and providing timely assistance to help these student's meet the State's challenging content standards
 - Purchasing supplemental staff/programs/materials/supplies
 - Conducting Parental Involvement meetings/trainings/activities
 - Recruiting/Hiring/Retaining Highly Qualified Teachers
- ▣ **Being a Title I school also means Parental Involvement and parents' rights.**

Required Federal Guidelines for implementing Title I programs.

- Student Achievement:** Establish and measure achievement standards based on Georgia Standards of Excellent (GSE)
- Accountability:** No schools were identified as ALERT, FOCUS or PRIORITY
- Teacher Qualifications:** All teachers hired to teach core academic subjects in a Title I school must meet certain requirements. They must have full certification, a bachelor's degree and demonstrate competence in the subject. Parents of students in Title I schools are guaranteed annual notification of their "right to know" about teacher qualifications. Parents may request and receive from the district, information regarding the professional qualifications of the teachers.
- Schools receiving funds:** Schools with enrollment of 40% or more students receiving free or reduced meals are eligible for Title I funds.
- Parent Involvement:** Parents are invited to participate in writing policies/plans on parent involvement for the district and school. The district/school is responsible for planning and conducting annual meetings with parents. The district/school is responsible for conducting parent workshops/training sessions. Parent involvement strategies are coordinated among various federal education programs.
- Parent Notification:** The district/school is responsible for sending parent notices throughout the year regarding the Title I program and progress throughout the year. Active parental participation and volunteering is encouraged.
- Testing/Assessment:** All schools participate in state-mandated testing



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Notification to Parents Regarding Teacher Qualifications

In compliance with the ESEA requirements, the Lowndes County School district notifies you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. The following may be requested:

- Certification
- College major/certification or degree
- Qualifications of the paraprofessional

In addition, parents must be notified by the school when their child has been taught for 4 consecutive weeks by a Non Highly Qualified teacher.

****New Federal Law (ESSA) will take place in 2018****



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What is included in the Title I Policy?

The Title I Policy addresses how Title I funds will be utilized throughout the school system.

- Student academic assessments
- Additional assistance provided to struggling students
- Coordination and integration of federal funds and programs
- School programs including Migrant, Pre-school, School Choice, and Supplemental Educational Services as applicable.
- Parental Involvement Strategies, including the School and District (LEA) Parental Involvement Policies

You, as a Title I Parent, have a right to be involved in the development/updating of the Title I Policies.



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Title I District and School Parent Involvement Policies

- With the involvement of teachers, parents, and community members, the Lowndes County School District annually reviews and revises the District and School Parent Involvement policies.
- All parents are invited and encouraged to give input and every Parent Involvement Team Meeting throughout the school year.
- These policies are available at the schools or the district office and also on the school and district websites.



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What is included in the School Improvement Plan (SIP)?

- ▣ **The SIP includes:**
 - A Needs Assessment and Summary of Data
 - Goals and Strategies to Address Academic Needs of Students
 - Professional Development Needs
 - Coordination of Resources/Comprehensive Budget
 - The School's Parental Involvement Plan

- ▣ **You, as Title I parents, have the right to be involved in the development of this plan. Opportunities to give input is available to all parents throughout the school year.**

What is the School-Parent-Student Compact?

- ❑ The Compact is a commitment from the school, the parent, and the student to share in the responsibility for improved academic achievement
- ❑ The Compact is jointly developed by parents, teachers, staff members, and students. Each party is encouraged to provide input in the development/revision of the Compact. The Compact is updated at least annually. Multiple opportunities for input is provided throughout the school year at Parent Involvement Team Meetings
- ❑ Opportunities to give input is available to all parents throughout the school year
- ❑ **You, as Title I parents, have the right to be involved in the development of the School-Parent-Student Compact!**



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How is the evaluation of the Parental Involvement Policy Conducted?

- ▣ Evaluation of the Title I Policy is conducted annually. All Title I parents are invited to be a part of the evaluation process.
- ▣ Evaluation includes:
 - Analyzing Content and Effectiveness of the current policy
 - Identifying Barriers to parental involvement
 - Data/Input may include...
 - ▣ Parent Survey (Required)
 - ▣ Workshop Evaluations
 - ▣ Parent Involvement Team meetings and minutes



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Parent Information Resources

- Lowndes County Schools (LCS) employ a District Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC). Mrs. Rome is available to assist and support parents, coordinate parent involvement events and to conduct parent meetings at the school and district levels. Her goals are to promote, coordinate and increase parent involvement in each school. In addition, two Parent Liaisons will be available to assist individual schools.
- Parent resources are also available at each school in the Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC)



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Parent Opportunities To Be Involved

- Participate in Parent Involvement Team meetings, Title I Annual Parent meeting, Open House and School Council Meetings.
- Participate in classroom and school-wide activities, such as Lunch & Learn, Career Day, Field Day, Book Fair & Reading Events, Biography Blitz, Math workshops, Adventures in Learning, ABC & 1,2,3's of Learning, and more.
- Participate in the annual revision of all Title I documents.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, where the Compact will be discussed, and extracurricular activities.



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Complaint Procedures

Grounds for Complaint: Any individual, organization or agency may file a complaint with LCS if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that LCS is violating a Federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under the ESEA guidelines. The complaint must allege a violation occurred not more than one year prior to the date the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing. Guidance for filing a complaint can be found on the GaDOE website or LCS website. You may also contact: herbhamilton@lowndes.k12.ga.us



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Title I funds are provided to help support and provide every student with equal opportunities to a great education. Other programs that are considered for support through Federal funds in Lowndes County are:

- Migrant Education Program (MEP)
- Homeless (McKinney Vento Act)
- Neglected & Delinquent (N&D)
- Private Schools located in our District
- Special Education



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Request for Information

For more information regarding the Title I program
or Parental Involvement, please contact

herbhamilton@lowndes.k12.ga.us

or

lavernerome@lowndes.k12.ga.us