

Title I

Information for Parents



Dear Parent,

In this booklet, you will learn about Title I and about how Title I funds can enhance a school's educational programs. You will also learn why your involvement in your child's education is so important, and what you can do to help your child succeed in school.

Schools understand that while Title I programs can help students a great deal, nothing is as crucial to a child's success as the involvement and support of a parent!

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What Is Title I?



Title I is the oldest and largest federally-funded education program in the U.S. There are over 50,000 Title I schools nationwide, receiving over \$15 billion in funds per year. Here's what you need to know about Title I.

What does Title I do?

The purpose of Title I is to provide all children with the opportunity to receive a fair, equal, high-quality education—and to especially help students who are struggling.

Title I provides financial assistance to the schools and students who need it the most—schools with high numbers or percentages of low-income students, and students who are failing or at risk of failing.

Title I programs

Title I provides funds for schoolwide programs that benefit all of the students in a school, as well as targeted assistance programs that provide support for the students who most need it.

Schoolwide Programs: Title I schools with at least 40% of their students coming from low-income families can use Title I funds to operate a schoolwide program that will benefit the whole school and improve the instructional program for *all* students.

Targeted Assistance Programs: Title I schools with a population of less than 40% low-income students can offer a targeted assistance program in which the school identifies and supports the students who are failing or most at risk of failing. Targeted assistance programs offer services such as tutoring, after-school programs, and programs to increase parent involvement.

How are schoolwide Title I funds used?

Here are some common ways Title I funds are used to improve a school's educational programs—and support the academic achievement of all their students.

Additional faculty and staff

Schools can hire additional teachers or instructional aides to provide targeted instruction in small groups or one-on-one settings.



Tutoring and intervention programs

Title I funds may be used to implement tutoring programs that provide struggling students with extra support.

Professional development

Schools can use Title I funds to provide teachers and staff with additional training to enhance and improve their instructional strategies.

Extended learning opportunities

Funds can be used for after-school programs, summer school, or extended school-day programs.

Supplemental learning materials and resources

Schools often use Title I funds to purchase educational materials, textbooks, computers, and other resources to improve the quality of instruction and to meet their students' unique needs.

Parent and family engagement programs

Title I funds are often used to encourage parental involvement in their child's education, aiming to strengthen the home-school connection.

Parent involvement is key to helping students succeed. Keep reading to learn why it's important for you to be involved in your child's education and what you can do to be a more involved parent.

The Importance of Parent Involvement



Parent involvement is crucial for a child's overall academic, social, emotional, and behavioral development. Here are just a few reasons why parent involvement is so important.

Greater academic success

Parents who are actively involved in their child's education tend to have children who perform better in school. When parents show interest in their child's education by helping with homework, attending school meetings, and communicating with teachers, it reinforces the importance of education and motivates their child to work hard in school.

Improved behavior and discipline

Parents who set expectations, provide guidance, and establish consistent rules and boundaries help their child develop self-discipline and good judgment.

Increased motivation and engagement

When parents are engaged in their child's learning, it boosts the child's motivation and engagement in school. Children feel supported and valued, leading to a more positive attitude towards education and a greater willingness to fully participate in classroom activities.

For some additional tips to help your child succeed in school, watch this short video.



Better communication

Having regular conversations with their parents helps children improve their communication skills. They learn to express themselves, share their thoughts and concerns, and listen to others effectively—all essential life skills.



Stronger relationship

Involvement in a child's life strengthens the parent-child relationship. It creates an open line of communication and fosters trust and understanding between parents and their children.

Improved social skills

Parental involvement helps children learn important social skills, such as cooperation, empathy, and respect for others. When parents actively participate in their child's social activities, it provides opportunities for their child to develop healthy relationships with peers and adults.

Higher self-esteem

Children whose parents are involved in their lives tend to have higher self-esteem and more self-confidence. The support and encouragement children receive from their parents contribute to a child's belief in their abilities and a positive self-image.

Better decision-making skills

Parent-child discussions and guidance help children develop critical-thinking and decision-making skills. Parents can help children analyze situations, consider consequences, and make informed choices.

The following sections will outline what you can do to help your child succeed in school and in life.

Encourage Reading



Your encouragement and support are extremely important in helping your child develop their reading skills.

Why reading matters

Reading improves student concentration and helps students develop important language skills. *Developing reading skills helps students do better in all of their school subjects.*

Make reading a priority

Reading at home will help your child develop critical reading skills and build their vocabulary. Here's how you can help.

- ▶ Have family reading time—30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Show your child that reading is a way to pursue personal interests. Take them to the library to get books on topics they want to learn more about.
- ▶ Give books for birthdays and other special occasions.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading books, newspapers, and magazines. Talk about the interesting things you've learned.

Build comprehension skills

Asking your child questions while you're reading to them (and when you're finished) will help your child develop important comprehension skills. Ask questions such as, *What do you think will happen next? Why do you think the character feels that way?*

Monitor Homework



Establishing the importance and routine of doing homework helps students develop study habits that will help them succeed in school now and for years to come.

Why homework matters

Homework aids in learning. Homework gives students the opportunity to practice the skills they learn in school.

Homework teaches responsibility. When students are required to keep track of their assignments and complete them on their own, they learn to be responsible.

Homework helps keep you informed. Homework is a great way for you to stay up-to-date on what your child is learning in school.

How you can help

- ▶ Make homework a part of the daily routine.
- ▶ Help your child learn how to organize and prioritize assignments. Ask your child what needs to be done, and then help them develop a plan.
- ▶ Make homework time a quiet time in your home. Turn off the TV and remove as many distractions as possible.
- ▶ Show your child how to break large assignments down into smaller, more manageable tasks.
- ▶ If your child rushes through homework just to get it done, insist that you review all completed homework together.

Work with Your School



Everyone in your school wants your child to have a positive, successful year. Here are some things you can do to work with your school and help your child succeed.

Communicate with your school

Know the best way to contact your child's teacher(s)—email, phone, or text. If you have a question or concern, don't hesitate to contact them.

Know the school personnel

Many schools have tutors, aides, counselors, and social workers to assist students and parents who need help. Know who to contact and how to reach them should you or your student need any kind of help, academic or otherwise.

Participate in parent organizations

PTAs and PTOs help bring parents, teachers, and school administrators together. Your participation in a parent organization shows your child that their education is important to you. It also shows that you are committed to making their school the best it can be.

Attend conferences

Parent-teacher conferences offer parents an excellent opportunity to receive updates on their child's academic and social progress. They also give parents the opportunity to share information that will help a teacher better understand and connect with their child.

Make the most of conferences

Before you go to a parent-teacher conference, make a list of the information you want to share, along with your questions and concerns. Also, ask your child if there is anything they want you to discuss with their teacher.

Here are some questions you might ask:

- ▶ How well does my child participate in class?
- ▶ Does my child use class time wisely?
- ▶ Does my child pay attention in class?
- ▶ Is my child organized?
- ▶ Does my child have everything they need in class?
- ▶ Are there any behavioral issues?
- ▶ What are my child's strengths? Which skills should we work on at home?
- ▶ Does my child get along well with others?
- ▶ Is my child working up to their potential? What can we do at home to help my child succeed?



Require Attendance



Regular attendance puts students of all ages on the road to success; however, regular attendance in elementary school is especially crucial.

Why attendance matters

Academic performance. Missing two days per month negatively impacts a student's academic performance and test scores.

Social growth. At school, students learn to interact with peers and build relationships with adults outside of their family.

Literacy skills. Frequent absences in elementary school have been shown to significantly affect a student's reading skills.

Routine and structure. Going to school every day provides consistency and gives children a sense of security.

Support good attendance

Develop routines. Each evening, help your child get everything ready for the following day—clothes, shoes, coat, and backpack. Also, make sure that your child goes to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep—and is up in time to have a good breakfast and get to school on time.

Get support. If you have difficulty getting your child to and from school, or if your child doesn't seem to want to go to school for any reason, talk to their teacher, school counselor, or an administrator. Work together to resolve whatever issue is having a negative impact on your child's attendance.

Monitor Screen Time



Setting healthy boundaries for screen time and technology use will help ensure that your child uses technology safely and responsibly. Here's what you can do.

- ▶ Spend time with your child online. Find some appropriate sites to visit, and go through these sites together. Help your child find sites that relate to their interests and hobbies.
- ▶ Limit the amount of time your child spends online, monitor their online activities, and encourage your child to engage in a variety of "offline" activities.
- ▶ Take advantage of parental controls, but know that they're not completely effective. Supervision and monitoring are the best deterrents to inappropriate behavior.
- ▶ Keep your family computer in a common area of your home (kitchen or family room). Children should not have internet access in their bedroom or in areas that may be difficult to supervise.
- ▶ Monitor your child's online game playing. Some games contain explicit violence, mature language, and/or sexual content. For information and ratings on video games, go to esrb.org or commonsensemedia.org.
- ▶ Discuss what information is appropriate to share online. Access to any personal profile should be limited to those on your child's friends list.

Be an Involved Parent



Being an involved parent doesn't require doing extraordinary things. It's the little things you do every day that are most important. Here's what you can do to be an involved parent.

Spend time together

Regularly set aside time to spend with your child. Engage in activities you both enjoy, and use this time to connect and bond.

Communicate and listen

Maintain open communication with your child. Encourage them to express themselves, and listen to their thoughts, concerns, and feelings without judgment.

Be present

Be physically and mentally present when interacting with your child. Put away your phone and give them your full attention.

Prioritize health

Encourage good hygiene and make sure your child maintains a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep.

Encourage extracurricular activities

Encourage your child to participate in extracurricular activities that interest them, such as sports, art, music, or dance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Set boundaries and rules

Establish clear, age-appropriate rules and boundaries and consistently enforce them. Explain the reasons behind the rules.

Lead by example

Demonstrate the values and behaviors you want to instill in your child through your own actions and choices.

Promote independence

When your child has a question or problem, try to help them figure out how to take care of it on their own. Being able to get their questions answered and their problems resolved helps students gain confidence and become more independent.

Support emotional development

Help your child identify and manage their emotions. Teach them healthy ways to express themselves and help them learn how to calmly and effectively handle difficult situations.

Celebrate achievements

Celebrate your child's accomplishments, both big and small!

*For a quick review of Title I and more,
watch this short video.*



Closing Words

Remember, every child is unique, so adapt your approach to suit your child's personality, interests, and needs. Stay engaged, show genuine interest, and make your child's education a top priority. When parents and schools work together, great things happen!

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