

# **Title I Newsletter**

## **Florence County School District 3**

### **Laura Hickson, Superintendent**

### **Linda Hair, Supervisor of Title I**

## **August 10, 2023**

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Dear Parents,

Each of the eight schools in Florence County School District 3 has been designated as a Title I school for the current school year. Title I is a federal program that provides opportunities for children 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 for teachers, requiring greater responsibility for student performance.

#### **Components of a School-wide Program**

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school was conducted using a variety of data.
- School-wide reform strategies are established to provide opportunities for all children to meet the state's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by properly certified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on an on-going basis throughout the school year.
- Parent & Family Engagement activities are conducted to increase parent participation.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary, from elementary to Jr high school, and from Jr high school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in assessment decisions.
- Support services and additional academic assistance are provided to ensure students master academic standards and/or meet academic requirements on state exams.

#### **Parental & Family Engagement**

Parental & Family Engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. A strong connection between home and school is a key element in student success. Parents are encouraged to become partners with their child's school and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.

Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents of students attending a Title I school. Additionally, opportunities for active parent participation include, but not limited to, open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, home visitation, school-wide improvement councils, parent conferences, monthly newsletters, and more.

Federal Title I Guidance requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's Parent Engagement and Community Involvement Plan or how the school can improve.

#### **Parent & Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact**

Each Title I school receives input from parents for the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a school-parent compact.

The parent and family engagement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs.

The school-parent compact outlines how parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

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#### **Title I Participation**

Florence County School District 3 continually monitors the implementation of the Title I plans. If you would like to participate on the Title I Planning Team, help to develop the Parent & Family Engagement Plan, Parent Involvement Policy and/or with the School-Parent Compact for your child's school, please contact the Office of Title I at (843) 374-8652.

### **Description & Explanation of Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment, and Proficiency Levels Students Are Expected to Meet**

Florence County School District 3 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 Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees. 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.

Florence County School District 3 administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. State assessment is given to students in grades three through eight and measures student performance on the state standards. Based upon requirements of *ESSA Guidelines*, all students in grades three through eight are expected to show growth yearly.

Children in kindergarten through tenth grade take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. The MAP test is state-aligned, computerized, and has adaptive assessments that accurately reflect the instructional level of each student and measures growth over time.

Beginning in tenth grade, state standardized assessments are given to students to measure student performance on state standards. Additionally, to monitor student progress throughout the year, students are given EOC exams, teacher-prepared assessments and/or textbook-provided assessments.

### **Parent's Right to Know**

As a parent of a student enrolled in a Title I school, 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 the Personnel Department at (843) 374-8652.

### **South Carolina 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.
- The final decision of the SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Education.

### **Title I Planned Expenditures for 2023-2024**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the latest reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and was approved by the U.S. Congress in December 2015. As a result of the ESSA legislation, provisions include help to ensure students are prepared in reaching state mandates. Examples of activities included in the school's Title I Plan are listed below along with researched-proven strategies that were jointly developed by the principal and members of the school's Title I School Improvement Council. The district / schools offers the following:

- Properly Certified Instructional Staff
- Extended School/ Tutorial Programs
- Inventory Management System
- Standards-based instructional supplies
- Computer-based Instruction
- Parent Liaisons
- Parent & Family Engagement Activities
- Professional Development
- Student Incentives
- Translation Services