

Parents Ask About....
TITLE I
Schoolwide Programs

Whom should I contact for more information about the Title I program?

Sources of information:

- The principal at your child's school
- The Fairfax County Public Schools Title I Office
Lacey Instructional Center
3705 Crest Drive
Annandale, VA 22003
703-846-8642
- United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-0498
1-800-USA-LEARN
(1-800-872-53276)
<http://www.ed.gov>

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Fairfax County Public Schools
Compensatory Education, Title I

*Lacey Instructional Center
3705 Crest Drive
Annandale, VA 22003*

Parents Ask About... Title I Schoolwide Programs

What is Title I?

Title I is the United States' largest federal aid program for elementary, middle, and high schools. Through Title I, the federal government gives money to school districts based on the number of students from low-income families. Each district uses its Title I money for *extra educational services* that help students achieve at high levels and meet the local and state standards.



What is a schoolwide program?

Federal and state guidelines state that schools with more than 40 percent of all students from low-income families can establish a schoolwide program. The purpose of a schoolwide program is to improve student achievement throughout the entire school. Schools assess whole-school needs and, in consultation with the cluster and Title I offices, design their own plans to help students meet the objectives of the Fairfax County Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs). Title I programs at each schoolwide school will vary, depending on the needs of the school. Every child will benefit from the added services and programs that a schoolwide Title I plan can offer. A schoolwide program helps a school do more for all its students.



What kinds of programs does Title I provide in Fairfax County?

In Fairfax County, Title I operates two types of elementary school programs: *schoolwide programs* and *targeted assistance programs*. Schools are identified and authorized to implement one of these programs based on the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches.



How can Title I money be used?

Districts and schools have choices in how they set up their Title I schoolwide programs, as long as they help all students meet the standards. For example, Title I money can be used to:

- Hire specially trained teachers to work with students, usually in reading or math.
- Provide staff development and training for teachers and other staff.
- Provide after-school, weekend, or summer school programs.
- Support parent involvement activities, including literacy programs for families, parent centers, and adult education classes.

What does Title I offer parents?

Parents play a very important part in educating children. Title I recognizes the valuable role parents play and the positive impact that parents can have on their child's academic achievement. Therefore, Title I requires that all schools have a written plan for how they will involve parents. This plan is called a *Family Involvement Policy*. The plan is shared with families at each school.



The *Family Involvement Policy* at each school states that the school will develop, with the help of parents, a *Home/School Compact*. The compact outlines how parents, students and schools will share the responsibility for improved student learning. Every parent should receive a copy of the school's *Home/School Compact* to review. Compacts may be revised as needed.

Parents in Title I schools are invited to help plan and participate in their school's Title I program, including parent involvement activities. Each schoolwide school plans a variety of activities that enable parents to play an active role in their child's education. Some examples of parent involvement activities supported by Title I funds are Parent Centers, Literacy Programs, and Family Math Nights. Title I funds also support parent liaisons and provide educational materials for parents to use at home. Parents who are interested in serving on a Title I planning committee should contact their school principal.

Each Title I school holds an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's involvement in the Title I program and their plans for using Title I funds. Often this meeting is held during "Back-to-School" events in the fall.



What is the Title I District Advisory Council?

The District Advisory Council (DAC) is a county organization with representatives from each Title I school. The DAC meets four times per year. Members collaborate with the Title I staff to plan, implement, and evaluate the Title I program in Fairfax County. Information from the DAC meetings is reported back to the school at school-level meetings such as PTA meetings, staff meetings, and parent coffees. Parents who are interested in representing their school on the District Advisory Council should contact their school principal.



What can I do to help?

Parents can help the school in a variety of ways:

- Volunteer at school.
- Volunteer to work on a school planning committee.
- Meet with the principal and other parents to discuss programs at the school.
- Attend programs at the school.
- Help your child at home to complete homework assignments and projects.
- Read with your child daily and help your child apply math skills to everyday life.
- Take your child to the library.
- Take your child on family field trips that support learning in science and social studies.