



What is Title I?

Title I is program funded by the federal government to improve students' academic achievement. Money is given to school districts to help children meet the Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. The amount of money

given to each school depends on the number of low-income families enrolled in the school.

Title I programs are implemented either schoolwide or as targeted programs. Both programs use effective methods and instructional strategies based on scientifically based research to assist students in reaching proficiency on Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). In a schoolwide program all students receive supplemental support from the Title I program. A targeted assistance program provides assistance for the students who have the greatest academic need.

More information on schools in Florida that receive Title I funds may be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/pdf/0809SchoolsList.pdf>.

Title I money must be used to expand and supplement the services children already receive in the regular classroom. Students receive instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics or science. Administrators, teachers, and parents decide how the federal money should be spent. Title I schools use their funds for a variety of items, including the following:

- Instructional personnel;
- Professional development;
- Family/parental involvement activities;
- Extension of school day/year;
- Extended learning opportunities;
- Classroom interventions;
- Reduction of class size; and/or
- Supplemental tutoring.



What resources are available to help me help my child?



The Florida Department of Education has posted many resources that will be helpful to parents:

- Resources to help your child with reading: <http://www.justreadflorida.com/parents.asp>;
- Beginning Reading Instruction: Practical Ideas for Parents: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/reading/products/praidepar.pdf>;
- Resources for parents of pre-school children: <http://www.fldoe.org/EarlyLearning/pdf/VPK-ChildPortfolio.pdf>;
- Information related to FCAT: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcatpub3.asp>; and
- Information related to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards: <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/curriculum/SSS/>.

Are there resources to help with NCLB?

- United States Department of Education has information posted which may be helpful to parents: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>
- No Child Left Behind: A Parent's Guide: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parentsguide.pdf>
- No Child Left Behind: What's in it for Parents: <http://www.prichardcommittee.org/Portals/1059/CIPL/Staff/NCLB%20guide.pdf> written by Anne T. Henderson and published by Parent Leadership Associates.



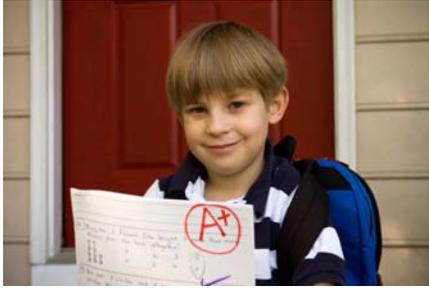
What are the statewide resources?

Florida has two federally funded Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC). The purpose of the PIRCs is to provide support to family, local school districts, and schools. Information may be accessed at the following locations:

- Family Network on Disabilities, PIRC: <http://fndfl.org/Index.asp>; and
- Family Partnership for Involvement in Education, PIRC at University of South Florida: <http://www.floridapartnership.usf.edu/default.htm>



What can I do at my child's school?



There are many ways to be involved in your child's education. The following is just a sample of things parents can do:

- Express high expectations for their success;
- Encourage their learning and progress in school;
- Be a role model and show the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work;
- Read with and have frequent conversations with your child;
- Help with homework;
- Check book bags for papers, notes, etc.;
- Make sure your child is well nourished;
- Make sure your child attends school regularly and on time;
- Establish a daily family routine;
- Monitor children's out-of-school activities;
- Stay in touch with their teachers by attending conferences, responding to notes or calls, and visiting the classroom ;
- Use community resources, such as libraries, recreation centers, after-school programs, family resource centers, clinics, etc.;
- Volunteer in your child's classroom;
- Participate in parent committees such as the School Advisory Council, Parent-Teacher group, or parent advisory groups;
- Attend school events or activities including family and parent meetings;
- **Praise your child and never under estimate the power of a hug!**

What are my rights as a parent?

At the beginning of each school year, schools and districts must tell parents about their rights provided by NCLB. Parents have the following rights:

- To be involved in your child's school, help create and/or review the school's plans, and determine how to use Title I funds;
- Request regular meeting to provide suggestions on ways to improve the school;
- Receive timely information on Title I, school performance reports, student assessment results, and other relevant information in a language you can understand;
- To know the status of your child's schools and whether it is achieving adequate yearly progress;
- To know your child's teacher and/or paraprofessionals qualifications; and
- To informed If your child has been assigned, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.



Can parents be involved?

Parents are an important influence in helping their children achieve. When schools and parents work together to help children learn and when parents participate in school activities and decision-making about their children's education, children achieve at higher levels. In short, when parents are involved in education, children do better in school and schools improve.



Parents must be a part of the group that develops, implements, and evaluates the parental involvement plans. While neither federal nor state law specify the number of parents to include on this group, the school district should ensure that membership is balanced. The parents should represent the population, taking into consideration grade levels, ethnic/racial backgrounds, parents of students with disabilities and parents of English language learning students.

Can I be involved in the development of the plan?

Parents must be a part of the group that develops, implements, and evaluates the parental involvement plans. While neither federal nor state law specify the number of parents to include on this group, the school district should ensure that membership is balanced. The parents should represent the population, taking into consideration grade levels, ethnic/racial backgrounds, parents of students with disabilities and parents of English language learning students.

What is a School-Parent Compact?

Schools that receive Title I funds must work with parents to create a "school-parent compact," specific to their child's school. Compacts outline how the school, family, and child will share responsibilities for raising achievement.

- Children benefit when families and schools establish a partnership dedicated to helping them be successful.
- Families benefit by having teachers officially recognize the importance of their roles in educating their children.
- Teachers benefit when families support education at home.



Parental responsibilities could range from helping with homework, attending parent-teacher conferences, to making decisions relevant to their child's education.

Resources

How do I get help for my child?

The main goal for parents and schools is for children to be successful. If your child is experiencing problems at school or not progressing as you expected, you should contact the teacher and schedule a conference. The conference will give you an opportunity to meet the teacher and discuss ways you can help your child so that your child will have a positive experience in school. It is important for parents to prepare to a conference with the teacher. The following tips can help you get the most out of the time you have with the teachers:

Discuss the conference with your child: Your child will be able to tell you how he/she is doing. Try to listen to the hidden messages your child may send, like “Ms. J. is going to tell you that I am a messy person. She is always telling me to clean up my desk.” This may mean your child needs help with organizational skills. This would be an area to discuss with the teacher.

Ask Questions: Have a list of questions ready such as:

- How is my child doing in reading, mathematics, science, etc.?
- What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?
- Does my child do their best at school?
- Does my child have friends at school?
- Does my child listen in class?
- How often are tests given in the class?
- Is my child keeping up with the class work?

Share information about your child with the teacher: You are your child’s first teacher and know him/her best. Tell the teacher their likes and dislikes, favorite subjects, hobbies, etc. It is also important to share information about your child’s home situation which may affect their school work (such as, a recent divorce/separation, death or serious illness in the family, loss of a job, special health issues or medications, etc.). This information will help your child’s teacher provide additional support as needed to help your child.

Make a plan: Discuss what you can do to help, make plans for a follow-up meeting, see if there are extra tutoring services available.

Discuss the conference with your child: After the conference your child will be curious. Tell your child the positive things discussed and how you and the teacher plan to work together to help him/her do better in school.



What is SES?

Free!

Supplemental educational services (SES) are additional academic instruction, or free tutoring, designed to increase the academic achievement of students in schools that have not met state targets for increasing student achievement (adequate yearly progress) for two or more years. The Florida Department of Education maintains a list of approved providers from which parents may select. The list is organized by the school districts served by the providers.



Children eligible to receive free- or reduced-priced meals who attend Title I schools that have failed to meet state standards for at least two years are eligible to receive supplemental educational services in Florida.

School districts are required to provide annual notice to parents of eligible children about the availability of services and information on the approved providers. When your school district notifies you that your child is eligible for SES, you will also receive a list of the state-approved providers that offer services in your area.

A state-approved provider of SES is an agency that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing student achievement, is capable of providing SES consistent with the instructional program of the school district and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, and is financially sound. The following types of entities are eligible to apply to become SES providers:



- For-profit and non-profit organizations;
- Community agencies and organizations;
- Public, charter, and private schools;
- Child care centers;
- Libraries;
- Colleges and universities;
- Family literacy programs;
- Regional educational alliances; and
- Faith-based organizations.

The list of providers approved to provide SES in Florida may be found at: <http://data.fldoe.org/ses/search/>. Parents select the provider that best meets the needs of their child. The school or district are available if a parent needs help in selecting a provider. Parents are encouraged to attend local provider fairs to learn more about each provider. The following questions may help you choose an SES Provider for your child:

- Where, when, and how often is tutoring?
- How many total sessions are offered?
- Who will be tutoring my child and what are their qualifications?
- What type of instruction is provided?
- What subject areas are offered?
- How do I know the services are effective?

You may find more information about SES at: http://www.flboe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/ses/ses_parentschoolinfo.asp.

Choices..
Choices..
Choices!



Can my child attend a different school?

If your child attends a Title I school identified as a *School in Need of Improvement* for a second year or more then your child is eligible to transfer to another public school in the district through a program called Choice with Transportation.

Parents should receive information regarding your child's choice options in the mail at least fourteen days before the of school. If you are unsure if your child's school must offer this program, you should contact the school or the school district. This information is also available on the Florida Department of Education's Web site at: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

Will my child receive my first choice?

The district will make every effort to satisfy parents' requests; however, due to various school constraints, you may not receive your first choice school. Once the district assigns your child to a choice school, you will have the option to accept or decline the transfer.

The district will provide transportation for as many students as the district has funds to serve. If demand for transportation exceeds available funds, the district must prioritize transportation to the lowest achieving of the low-income students.

If your child's home Title I school is removed from the *School in Need of Improvement* status, your child may remain at the choice school but the district will not provide transportation. Also, if your child transfers to a choice school and that receiving school becomes identified as a *School in Need of Improvement*, your child may remain at the choice school but the district will no longer provide transportation.

How do I select a different school for my child?

To select a different school for your child, parents must complete an application and rank, in the order of your preference, the schools you want your child to attend. Applications should be available in the front office at your child's current school or at the district office. Follow the application deadlines and procedures listed on your application form.



If you have further questions regarding CWT, you should contact your district's CWT contact. You can call your district and ask to speak with the choice contact. You may also find your district contact person on the Department's Web site at: <http://www.fldoe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/bpsDirectory/directory.aspx>, and then click on Choice with Transportation Contacts and select your School District.