



Title I Newsletter
Drayton Mills Elementary School
1500 Skylyn Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29307
Mr. Thomas Webster, Principal
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Purpose of Title I

Title I of the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* legislation is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served 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 and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

Components of a Title I Schoolwide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- Schoolwide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the State's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a certified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent and family engagement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary, from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. Parents are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve 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.

A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success. Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents within a Title I school. Opportunities for active parent participation should include, but not be limited to open house, parent workshops, PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), school-parent compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, newsletters, and more.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent and family engagement expenditures.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents regarding the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a home-school 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 home-school compact outlines how parents, the entire 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.

Title I Participation

The Drayton Mills Elementary School continually monitors the implementation of the Title I plan and welcomes input from parents, school staff, and community members regarding its current and future Title I plans. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact the principal at 864-586-7979. Please also **read the attached draft copies** of the parent and family engagement policy and the home-school compact and give us your suggestion or comments before October 31st. You may email feedback to webster@spart7.org or call the principal at the number above.

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

Spartanburg School District 7 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 District 7's 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.

Spartanburg School District 7 administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The SC Ready, ACT, EOC and SC PASS are part of the state assessment program given to students in grades three through twelve and measures student performance on the state standards. Children in prekindergarten take *PAL* assessment and kindergarten take *KRA* assessment to determine their readiness for first grade. To monitor student progress throughout the year, students are given the iReady Assessment and other teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon requirements of *ESSA*, all students in grades three through twelve are expected to meet proficiency on all assessments. To assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, report cards are sent home at the end of each nine-week period. A progress report is sent home approximately three weeks into the quarter to notify parents of how their student's academics are moving along. If, at any time, you would like to speak to your child's teacher about their progress and/or grades, please schedule an appointment to speak with the teacher by calling the school at 864-586-7979.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled at Drayton Mills Elementary 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 Human Resources Department at 864-594-4400.

South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures

The State Department of Education (SDE) 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.

Please feel free to review the Title I plan. It is located in the main office.

Title I Annual Meeting

Will be held at a date TBD. We will discuss:

- The school's Participation in Title I
- The requirements of Title I
- The parents' right to be involved in their child's education