

# The Purpose of Title I

The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Title I provides funds to school district for use in high-poverty schools to improve the achievement of the lowest-achieving students – those who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet a State’s academic achievement standards.

Title I is funded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It has been in existence since 1995. There are more than 51,000 schools across this country who receive Title I funds.

Two years ago, our district and each building in the district wrote improvement plans. These improvement plans enabled each elementary building to select the Title I Schoolwide program. The Schoolwide plans are reviewed and evaluated annually. Last year the building plans were rewritten to reflect our district’s new configuration. The Schoolwide plans for Jackson, Rhodes, and Washington reflect the needs of each building.

A Schoolwide program upgrades the entire instructional program in the school building to enable all children, particularly the lowest achieving students, to reach the state’s standards for reading/language arts and mathematics. The major impetus of the Schoolwide program is to raise the academic achievement of all students at the school, first and foremost by improving academic instruction in all classrooms to meet a variety of student needs. At the same time, however, Schoolwide programs also are expected to make sure that students who are struggling, even with this improved classroom instruction and programming, are identified early and receive “effective, timely, additional assistance”.

A Schoolwide program must implement the 10 components required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. A school building is eligible to implement a Schoolwide program if at least 40 percent of the enrolled students are low income (eligible for free and reduced price meals on the National School Lunch Program) and the building’s staff develop a plan to restructure the total instructional program.

Schoolwide Components:

1. A comprehensive needs assessment of all aspects of the school, including student achievement as well as program effectiveness, parent/student/teacher perceptions, and environmental and behavioral data. This data also is disaggregated based on various student populations, particularly in terms of students who are not reaching proficiency on state-required exams.
2. Implementation of schoolwide reform strategies that strengthen the core academic program and addresses the needs of all children particularly those at risk of not meeting the state’s academic standards.

3. Assurance that students receive instruction from “highly qualified” teachers.
4. Established plans to attract the best teachers with efforts made to decrease turnover rates of staff.
5. High-quality, on-going professional development to teachers to ensure that teachers receive effective training and ongoing support in implementing research-based instructional strategies in the classroom.
6. A focus on improving parental involvement to involve parents in the implementation of the Schoolwide plan, including training parents in how they can increase readiness for school, providing support for parents based on individual needs, and strategies for truly involving them in the implementation of academic programming.
7. Implementation of preschool programming or support to better ensure that students who enter into kindergarten have the required pre-reading skills needed to succeed.
8. Concentrated efforts to identify a variety of assessment data, and involve teachers in the identification and use of assessments to measure student progress and design instruction based on student need.
9. Identification of at-risk students to make sure students, who continue to struggle, receives additional instruction or support.
10. Coordination of federal, state, and local services and programs to ensure that all facets of the school are working toward the achievement of identified Schoolwide goals.