

# **Covington County School System**

Title I, Part A Plan  
*No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* P.L. 107-110

2014-2015

Shannon Driver, Superintendent of Education

## ***No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 P.L. 107-110***

**Title I Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

### **Overview**

The goal of the NCLB Consolidated Application/Plan is to integrate educational plans that will result in improved teaching and learning, as evidenced by Covington County Schools' achievement of its performance targets.

Covington County Schools will involve teachers, administrators, and parents in the development, implementation, and review of its Title I Plan. Covington County Schools will seek State Department of Education approval and will revise the plan as necessary.

The Title I Plan will be annually reviewed to determine program effectiveness.

### **Outline of Covington County Schools Title I LEA Plan:**

- A. Description of high-quality student academic achievement assessments used in addition to the academic assessments described in the state plan.
  - 1. To determine the success of children and to provide information to teachers, parents, and students on the progress being made toward meeting state student academic achievement standards.
  - 2. To assist in diagnosis, in teaching and in learning in the classroom in ways that enable low achieving children to meet state student achievement standards and do well in the local curriculum.
  - 3. To determine what revisions are needed to projects under this part so that such children meet the state student academic achievement standards.
  - 4. To identify effectively students who may be at risk for reading failure or who are having difficulty reading, through the use of screening, diagnostic, and classroom-based instructional reading assessments.
- B. A description of additional indicators used to measure student achievement.
- C. A description of how Covington County Schools will provide additional educational assistance to the students assessed as needing help in meeting the state's challenging student academic achievement standards.

- D. A description of the strategy Covington County Schools will use to coordinate programs under this part with programs under Title II to provide professional development for teachers and principals and, if appropriate, pupil services personnel, administrators, parents and other staff.
- E. A description of how Covington County Schools will coordinate and integrate services with other educational services at the local agency or school level.
- F. An assurance that Covington County Schools will participate, if selected, in the State National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics.
- G. A description of the poverty criteria that will be used to select school attendance areas under section 1113.
- H. A description of how teachers, in consultation with parents, administrators, and pupil services personnel in targeted assistance schools will identify the eligible children most in need of services under this part.
- I. A general description of the nature of the programs conducted by Covington County Schools under sections 1114 and 1115 and educational services outside of schools for children living in local institutions for neglected or delinquent children.
- J. A description of how Covington County Schools will ensure that migrant children and former migrant children who are eligible to receive services under this section are selected to receive such services on the same bases as other children.
- K. A description of how Covington County Schools will use funds under this part to support pre-school programs.
- L. A description of how Covington County Schools will assist its low-achieving schools identified as in need of improvement.
- M. A description of how Covington County Schools will implement public school choice and supplemental services.
- N. A description of how Covington County Schools will insure that all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified.
- O. A description of the services Covington County Schools will provide for homeless children.
- P. A description of the strategy Covington County Schools will use to implement effective parental involvement.
- Q. A description of how Covington County Schools will use Title I funds to support after school (including before school and summer school) and school-year extension programs.

**A. High-quality student academic achievement assessments used in Covington County Schools in addition to the academic assessments described in the state plan.**

Covington County Schools use several high-quality assessments in addition to those described in the State Plan, including:

- Stride Academy
- End of Course Test
- District-wide Formative Assessments
- Compass Learning Assessment
- STAR Reading and STAR Math
- ACT Test
- ARMT – Alabama Reading & Mathematics Tests
- OLSAT
- Gifted Screening
- Alabama Alternate Assessment
- Reading Street Program Material

**B. Additional indicators used to measure student achievement will include those that are reported in the state’s AYP and school system’s and schools’ report cards.**

- Graduation Rate
- Attendance Rate
- Out-of-school suspensions
- Report Cards & Progress Reports
- Promotion Rate
- Pride Surveys

**C. Covington County Schools will provide additional educational assistance to the students assessed as needing help in meeting the state’s challenging student academic achievement standards.**

- Small group tutoring using SRA Corrective Reading and Corrective Mathematics intervention programs.
- Small and whole group instruction in reading strategies through the Alabama Reading Initiative.
- Small and whole group instruction in mathematics, science and technology through the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative.
- Computer hardware and software programs for individualized instruction.

- Extended Day tutoring in reading, mathematics, and homework assignments at school sites.
- Extending learning to the home through take-home materials for reinforcement of classroom learning.
- Training parents to help their child with school work at home.
- Providing Title I Instructional Aides to Title I schools.
- Student support teams will meet periodically to develop strategies to ensure academic success.

**D. The Covington County School System will coordinate programs under Title I with programs under Title II to provide professional development for teachers and principals and, if appropriate, pupil services personnel, administrators, parents and other staff.**

The Covington County School System will collaborate with the Troy University Regional Inservice Center, the Alabama Reading Initiative, the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Initiative, and will use the results of the IMPACT document to assist in the recommendation of professional development topics, programs, or training that are identified through the schools' needs assessment process and Educate Alabama. Training opportunities will be:

- tied to challenging state content and student performance standards (data-driven);
- inclusive of methods to address gender-equity, ELL and migrant students and to teach children with special needs;
- reflective of research on teaching and learning and contributing to improvement in the classroom or throughout the school;
- designed to have a positive impact on the teacher's performance in the classroom;
- developed with the extensive participation of teachers;
- developed and designed to include all stakeholders (teachers, parents, administrators, non-instructional and LEA staff) as appropriate.

**E. Covington County Schools will coordinate and integrate services with other educational services at the local agency or school level.**

- collaborate with Even Start, Head Start, and Pre-K programs to survey and provide needed adult basic education, child care, and career development programs;
- collaborate with the Special Services Program and the Career Technology programs;
- collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Department of Human Resources;
- disseminate community resource directories to families;
- survey parents regarding their educational needs;
- coordinate family literacy activities;
- ensure the education of homeless children and meeting the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Acts.

**The Covington County School System will coordinate and integrate services for its schools by:**

- coordinating and enhancing pre-kindergarten and kindergarten transition programs;
- making Title I resources available to all eligible participants;
- coordinating workshops and in-service activities for all eligible participants based on the results of surveys;
- providing research-based reading programs and intervention programs;
- coordinating and enhancing parental involvement programs;
- supporting class size reduction efforts;
- utilizing additional funding sources to support the instructional program.

**F. Covington County Schools will participate, if selected, in the State National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics.**

Covington County Schools will willingly participate in NAEP if selected.

**G. Poverty criteria that will be used to select school attendance areas under Section 1113.**

All Covington County Schools' attendance areas will be ranked according to their poverty levels using free and reduced lunch reports, verified by each school principal. All schools served in Title I meet the 40% Free and Reduced Lunch criteria.

There are no registered private schools in Covington County at this time, however, in the event that a private school elects to participate, free/reduced lunch application criteria will be used to determine the number of economically deprived students. The head administrator of the private school will certify accuracy.

**H. Identification of Eligible Children Most in Need of Services in Targeted Assistance Schools.**

There are no Targeted Assistance programs in the Covington County School System at this time.

**I. Programs conducted by Covington County Schools under sections 1114 and 1115 and educational services outside of schools for children living in local institutions for neglected or delinquent children.**

Schools are supported by the system's curriculum and instruction, technology, and special services departments in the selection and purchase of scientifically-based research programs in mathematics and reading. High quality staff development is offered to all schools. Title I schools provide additional tutoring/remediation for students not meeting state academic standards. A Parental Involvement Coordinator supports schools by developing family literacy activities and events. The Pre-School Coordinator works closely with schools to provide support with preschool transition strategies.

Covington County Schools will provide neglected or delinquent children and youth with transition services which include:

- Pupil services, including counseling, psychological, and social work services designed to meet their needs;
- Re-entry orientation programs;
- Instruction and training at alternative school;
- Parental involvement and parent counseling.

**Migrant students**, as identified by the state, are eligible for these services.

**Neglected centers**, as specified by the state, are eligible for these services. Funds will be allocated, per eligible student in participating sites, for purchasing educational materials, equipment and services.

**Homeless students**, as identified by the state are eligible for these services. Funds will be allocated per eligible student, for purchasing educational materials, equipment and services.

**Delinquent centers**, as specified by the state, are eligible for these services. Funds will be allocated, per eligible student in participating sites, for purchasing educational materials, equipment and services.

**J. Covington County Schools will ensure that migrant children and former migrant children who are eligible to receive services will receive such services on the same bases as other children.**

Migrant students that are enrolled in Title I schools are eligible to receive supplemental assistance before, during and after the school day when appropriate.

**K. Covington County Schools will use funds under this part to support pre-school programs.**

The Covington County School Systems' Title I Program will collaborate with health and social agencies in Covington County to assure that children and families are prepared for a successful school experience. Schools and communities will continue to work together to ensure that every child will come to school prepared to succeed (school readiness).

The Special Services Pre-School Program is a site-based and home-based program for students who are developmentally delayed. The Head Start program in the Florala area is housed at Florala City Middle School and is a feeder school for W.S. Harlan Elementary School. The Pre-K program at Red Level School is operated by the school and provides school readiness services.

**L. Covington County Schools will assist its low-achieving schools identified as in need of improvement.**

Covington County Schools will assist low-achieving schools identified in "need of improvement" by the following:

- form a committee to conduct an analysis of data to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses;
- review curriculum and instructional strategies in the School Improvement Plan;
- review school data with the principal, all staff members and parents. Assist with developing measurable and achievable goals for all staff members in order to increase student achievement;
- provide additional intervention and remediation services to students;
- provide additional staff development focusing on best practices for instruction in reading, mathematics, English, writing, social studies, and science;
- assist the school improvement team with developing goals and objectives that will result in improvement of student performance.

**M. Covington County Schools will implement public school choice and supplemental services.**

**Time and duration of School Choice.** Covington County Schools will offer all students enrolled in Title I schools (that is, schools that operate programs funded under Title I, Part A of the ESEA) the opportunity to transfer to another public school when those schools are failing schools.

**When will school choice be made.** Covington County Schools will make choice 21 following the school year in which Covington County Schools administered the assessments that resulted in the school being identified as in need of school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring [Section 1116(b)(1)(E)]. If possible, Covington County Schools will notify parents about their available choices well before the beginning of the school year in which those choices will be available. If Covington County Schools should receive the listing of schools identified



for improvement in the fall, the system will offer choice to students immediately or the second semester [34 C.F.R. Section 200.32(f)].

**Duration of School Choice.** Covington County Schools will offer choice to all students in an eligible Title I school until the school is no longer identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. If more than one school meets the requirements of a transfer school, more than one choice will be offered to eligible students.

**Length of time students who change schools will be allowed to attend the school of their choice.** If an eligible student exercises the option to transfer to another public school, Covington County Schools will permit the student to remain in that school until he or she has completed the highest grade in the school. However, the LEA is no longer obligated to provide transportation for the student after the end of the school year in which the student's school of origin is no longer identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring [34 C.F.R. Section 200.44(g)].

If an eligible student has transferred out of a school that is in school improvement status and the student's original school leaves that status after the school year has begun, Covington County Schools will allow the student to continue to attend his or her current school through the final grade of that school, but no longer is required to provide transportation.

**Priority to lowest achieving students.** Covington County Schools will give *all* students in a school identified for improvement the opportunity to transfer to another public school. In implementing this option to transfer, however, there may be circumstances in which Covington County Schools need to give priority to the lowest-achieving children from low-income families [Section 1116(b)(1)(E)(ii)]. For example, if not all students can attend their first choice of schools, Covington County Schools would give first priority in assigning spaces to the low-achieving low-income students. Similarly, if Covington County Schools does not have sufficient funding to provide transportation to all students who wish to transfer, it would apply this priority in determining which students can receive transportation.

**Notification of parents.** Covington County Schools will provide an explanation of the choice option to all parents of students enrolled in Title I schools that have been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. This notification will be in an easy-to-understand format and, to the extent feasible, in a language the parents can understand. At a minimum, this notification will:

- Inform parents that their child is eligible to attend another public school due to the identification of the current school as in need of improvement;
- Identify each public school that the parent can select;
- Include information on the academic achievement of the schools that the parent may select [34 C.F.R. 200.37(b)(4)].

In addition to mailing notices directly to parents, Covington County Schools will provide information about choice options through broader means, including newspapers and the Internet.

Covington County Schools will set a timeline for parents to make their decisions on choice, depending on the circumstances in the system and its schools. Covington County Schools will establish a “window” during which parents must exercise their choice option and set a reasonable deadline by which parents must apply.

Covington County Schools will provide parents with an enrollment form for school choice with the school options to which students can transfer.

The superintendent of Covington County Schools will make the final decision of school choice while considering the parents’ preferences in making the decision. Once the decision is made, parents have the option to decline the opportunity to move their child to a new school identified by Covington County Schools (a school that is not in need of school improvement).

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CHOICE**

Covington County Schools will ensure that students with disabilities are provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Title II) in their schools of choice. A school to which a student transfers may elect to implement the individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan (for students eligible only under Section 504 and Title II) developed by the prior school, or convene an IEP meeting and develop a new IEP in consultation with the parents that meets the students’ needs (or, for the Section 504/Title II-only eligible student, determine the regular and special education and related aids and services necessary to meet the students’ needs).

#### **N. Covington County Schools will insure that all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified.**

The Covington County School System is committed to recruiting and hiring Highly Qualified teachers and paraprofessionals. Covington County Schools will also recruit and hire highly qualified teachers to reduce class size.

The Covington County School System will not hire any Non-Highly Qualified teachers for a Title I School.

The principal of each school will attest annually, in writing, as to whether the school is in compliance with the No Child Left Behind’s (NCLB) requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals. Copies of the attestations will be maintained in the Central Office and the schools and will be made available upon request to the public.

Covington County Schools' Personnel Director will work one-on-one with teachers in analyzing transcripts, professional development plans (PDPs), Praxis and HOUSSE options to determine Highly Qualified status. Each certified employee will be made aware of their status, which will include; signing an Individual Plan for meeting the criteria for qualifications as "Highly Qualified" as stated by the Alabama State Department of Education.

LEA will assist each individual who is not HQ develop an action plan to comply with NCLB requirements. A written agreement, which will be signed by the teacher and local superintendent and/or his/her designee, will be required. A schedule will be given to each teacher that will reflect periodic check up on completion of the agreement. (Individual Plan) Also, consequences will be made clear if all HQ requirements are not met in a timely manner.

LEA will continue to offer coursework assistance through Troy University and LBW Junior College to accommodate the NCLB requirements.

LEA will set aside funds from Title I and II Part A for reimbursement of a passing score on the Praxis Test. Courses will be limited to two courses for reimbursement. Teachers must provide proof of passing Praxis or courses and paid receipt. First come/first served until funds are expended.

LEA will attest to the fact that certified teachers are highly qualified upon written request from SDE or the public.

LEA will attest that all teachers will be assigned to teach a grade level(s) and subject(s) for which the teacher holds proper Alabama certification and for which the teacher has been deemed highly qualified.

LEA will attest to established procedures for developing individual teacher plans that provide for clear and direct communication between the LEA and individual teachers.

LEA will notify, annually at the beginning of the school year, parents of each student attending each school that receives Title I, Part A funds that the parent may request and the LEA will provide, in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's teachers in accordance with Section 1111(h)(6)(A).

LEA will ensure that each school that receives Title I, Part A funds provides to each parent timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned , or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified Section 1111(h)(6)(B)(ii). Letters will be sent when **the student is assigned** to a non-highly qualified teacher. If a teacher changes during the school year and gets new students, same guidelines apply.

LEA has incorporated the state's "Procedures for Hiring a Teacher that is Not Yet Highly Qualified" and will continue to fully implement these procedures when it is necessary to hire a teacher who is not highly qualified for the grade level(s) and/or subject(s) the teacher is assigned to teach.

LEA has policies and procedures to prohibit use of the Title I, Part A funds to pay the salary of any new paraprofessionals, except under certain limited cases as described in Section 2141(c)(2).

LEA has implemented policies and procedures to prohibit use of Title II, Part A funds to pay the salary of any teacher who does not meet the NCLB and state definitions of “highly qualified” teacher.

LEA will provide professional development training to non-highly qualified teachers as well as certified staff to:

- Meet challenging state content and student performance standards (data-driven);
- Teach and address the needs of students with different learning styles, particularly, students with disabilities, special learning needs and limited English proficiency;
- Improve student behavior in the classroom and identify early and appropriate interventions;
- Involve parents in their child’s education;
- Understand and use data and assessments to improve classroom practice and student learning
- Ensure that teachers receive support and assistance related to content knowledge and teaching skills needed for the teaching assignment, including teacher mentoring.

LEA is committed to carrying out the NCLB requirements and will continue to make a ‘good faith’ effort to ensure that these requirements are met in a timely manner.

Notices may be in any format, including newsletters that go to every parent, and will be clearly written in a language parents can understand.

## **O. Covington County Schools will provide services to homeless children.**

All homeless children have the right to a free, appropriate education. Homeless children will not be denied this right in Covington County Schools nor will they be denied access without proof of residency within our schools’ attendance areas. Through our system’s School Admission Policy for the Homeless, Migrant, Non-English Speaking, Immigrant and/or Disabled, children will have access to a free, appropriate education and will not be prohibited from school attendance due to barriers such as:

- Residency requirements
- Lack of social security number
- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of immunization
- Legal custody requirements
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Transportation
- Language barriers
- Disabilities

Covington County Schools are committed to providing the following services and programs to homeless families:

- After-school and extended day programs to provide homeless students with a quiet place to do homework or participate in recreational activities;
- Special tutoring programs for homeless students, especially those who have missed a great deal of school.
- Pre-school programs for homeless children.
- Information for parents on how to find housing and jobs.
- In-school counselors who can help with everything from academic counseling to clothes drives for homeless families.
- In-service training programs to help raise the awareness and sensitivity of school personnel to the problems and daily trials these students face.

Homeless, migrant, non-English speaking, immigrant and/or disabled children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

**P. Covington County Schools will use strategies to implement effective parental involvement.**

Parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs through their participation on the schools' Title I committees.

Covington County Schools will:

- Offer flexible schedules of meetings for parents.
- Provide results from the academic assessments to parents and teachers as soon as it is practicably possible after the tests are taken, in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand (will use TransAct).
- Provide parents with timely information regarding their child's education through school newsletters, system and school report cards, parent/teacher conferences, Open House, family literacy nights, and other parental involvement activities.
- Present notices and information under the Parents' Right-To-Know Act in an understandable and uniform format in a language that parents can understand using the TransAct Parent Notification collections.
- Inform eligible schools and parents of schoolwide program authority and the ability of such schools to consolidate funds from federal, state, and local agencies at an annual meeting.

Parents can submit comments or concerns regarding their schools' Title I Schoolwide Plan to the school's principal and/or the Title I coordinator at the Central Office. Parents may request, through the school principal, a meeting of the Title I Schoolwide Committee.

**Q. Covington County Schools will use the following procedures to ensure that the Parents Right-to-Know provisions under §1111(h)(6), §1112(g) and §3302 are met:**

- Covington County Schools Parents Right-to-Know and PPRA Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities will be sent home with every student at the beginning of the school year.
- Notice of Teacher Status will be sent home to parents of students who have a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- Request Teacher Qualifications form is available at every school in the school office.

**R. Covington County Schools will use Title I funds to support after school (including before school and summer school) and school-year extension programs.**

Covington County Schools will support before school, after school, and summer school programs for each of its Title I schools. After school programs will be maintained at Fleeta Junior High School, Straughn Elementary School, Red Level School and WS Harlan. In addition, Red Level School will continue to support a preschool program.

A system-wide summer school will be offered at the central office annually. This will include students in grades 9-12 from all of the Title I high schools.

Funding for these programs will come from other state, federal, and local revenues.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Funds will be utilized to maintain an extended day program and a 2 week summer program at Fleeta Junior High School, Straughn Elementary School/Straughn Middle School, Red Level Elementary School and WS Harlan.

# **Covington County Schools Title I LEA Plan Assurances**

(Signed Assurances are included in the NCLB Consolidated Application/Plan)

## **The Covington County School System will:**

Inform eligible schools and parents of schoolwide program authority and the ability of such schools to consolidate funds from federal, state, and local agencies;

Provide technical assistance and support to schoolwide programs;

Work in consultation with schools as the schools develop the schools' plans pursuant to Section 1114 and assist schools as the schools implement such plans or undertake activities pursuant to Section 1115 so that each school can make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the State student academic achievement standards;

Fulfill its school improvement responsibilities under Section 1116, including taking actions under paragraphs (7) and (8) of Section 1116(b);

Provide services to eligible children attending private elementary schools and secondary schools in accordance with Section 1112, and timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials regarding such services;

Take into account the experience of model programs for the educationally disadvantaged, and the findings of relevant scientifically-based research indicating that services may be most effective if focused on students in the earliest grades at schools that receive funds under this part;

Ensure that funds under this part used to provide early childhood development services to low-income children below the age of compulsory school attendance comply with the performance standards established under Section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act;

Work in consultation with schools as the schools develop and implement their plans or activities under Sections 1118 and 1119;

Comply with the requirements of Section 1119 regarding the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals and professional development;

Inform eligible schools of Covington County Schools' authority to obtain waivers on the school's behalf under Title IX and, if the State is an Ed-Flex Partnership State, to obtain waivers under the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999;

Coordinate and collaborate, to the extent feasible and necessary as determined by Covington County Schools, with the State Department of Education and other agencies providing services to children, youth, and families with respect to a school in school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under Section 1116 if such as school requests assistance from the LEA in addressing major factors that have significantly affected student achievement at the school;

Ensure, through incentives for voluntary transfers, the provision of professional development, recruitment programs, or other effective strategies, that low-income students and minority students are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers;

Use the results of the student academic assessment required under Section 1111(b)(3), and other measure or indicators available to the agency, to review annually the progress of each school served by the agency and receiving funds under this part to determine whether all of the schools are making the progress necessary to ensure that all students will meet the state's proficient level of achievement on the state academic assessments described in Section 1111(b)(3) within 12 years from the end of the 2001-2002 school year;

Ensure that the results from the academic assessments required under Section 1111(b)(3) will be provided to parents and teacher as soon as it is practicably possible after the test is taken, in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand; and

Assist each school served by Covington County Schools and assisted under this part in developing or identifying examples of high-quality, effective curricula consistent with Section 1111(b)(8)(D).

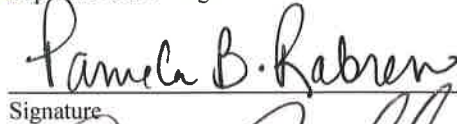
Shannon Driver  
Superintendent

9-26-14  
Date

  
Superintendent's Signature

Pam Rabren  
Custodian of Funds

10/7/14  
Date

  
Signature

Donny Powell  
Federal Programs Director

9-26-14  
Date

  
Signature