



BUTTS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM 2014-2015 TITLE I INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 is a law that significantly raises expectations for states, school districts and schools. These expectations include:

- (1) **Academics:** ESEA states that all students will meet or exceed state standards in reading and mathematics by 2014. Schools and school districts must move toward this goal by achieving Adequate Yearly Progress with all students. States are required to establish state academic standards and a state assessment system. The ESEA act holds the state, the school district and the individual school accountable for every student's academic success.
- (2) **Highly Qualified Staff:** The law also states that teachers and paraprofessionals must be highly qualified in the subjects they teach.
- (3) **Parental Involvement:** Additionally, the law has a strong focus on parental notification and involvement.

In 2011, Georgia applied for the ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This waiver allows our state to identify and support schools where students continue to struggle based on student achievement growth or student subgroup performance issues, unify federal law with Georgia's accountability system focused on college and career readiness and exercise greater flexibility with federal funding. Under Georgia's own statewide accountability system, stakeholders will be able to share a common understanding of school and district performance. This waiver will be in effect beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and remain in place for three years. For more information regarding the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, visit www.gadoe.org, keyword: ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Please Note: The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) expired in 2007. While many of its policies remain in effect, the law is now referred to by its original name, the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website at:
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html>.

WHAT IS TITLE I?

Title I is a part of ESEA. This act provides money to public schools with high numbers of children from low-income families. Title I is designed to ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach grade-level proficiency. Title I programs must be focused on improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. Additionally, ESEA requires school districts to set-aside Title I funds to serve homeless and neglected students who do not attend schools participating in Title I. These services are comparable to services provided to children attending a Title I school.

WHAT IS A TITLE I SCHOOL?

Title I schools are the schools that are given funding from ESEA. Schools are given funding based on the number of children who qualify for free or reduced priced lunch. All schools in the Butts County School System are designated as Title I for the 2014-2015 school year.

WHAT ARE TARGETED ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS?

A targeted assistance school is a school that must use Title I funds to focus on helping the students most at risk of failure on state assessments. Funding is used to help participating children meet state standards and ensure students are taught by highly qualified staff.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLWIDE SCHOOLS?

A schoolwide school is a school in which children from low-income families make up at least 40% of enrollment. In schoolwide programs, Title I funds are used to serve all of the children in the school. The purpose of schoolwide Title I programs is to improve the entire educational program in a school which should result in improving the academic achievement of all students, particularly the lowest achieving students. The core elements of a schoolwide program are (1) needs assessment, (2) plan and (3) evaluation. All schools in the Butts County School System are designated as Title I Schoolwide Schools for the 2014-2015 School Year.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING PROGRAM (FLP)

Under Georgia's new ESEA Flexibility Waiver, schools that have been identified as a Focus or Priority School due to having an achievement gap between subgroups are required to develop a school turnaround plan in order to close this achievement gap. Schools identified as a Focus or Priority School will create a Flexible Learning Program (FLP). The schools identified as a Focus School for the 2014-2015 school year are Carver Road Middle School and Cowan Road Middle School.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding Title I can be found on the:

- (1) GA Department of Education website: <http://www.gadoe.org/>
- (2) US Department of Education website: <http://www.ed.gov/>

PARENT INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent Involvement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The purpose is to ensure that parents play an integral role in their child's learning and are active in their child's education at school.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Some opportunities for parental involvement include parent workshops, parent advisory committees, school council, PTO/PTA, parent volunteers, school planning meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COORDINATORS

Each school has a parent liaison that coordinates parent activities. For more information, contact your child's school. If you have any comments or suggestions, always feel free to contact your parent liaison. Your liaison will take your feedback to the leadership team of the school and will provide helpful tips to school staff.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Every year, students, parents and school staff sign a compact or agreement. This compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. This compact is revised with parent input at the end of each school year and then distributed to all parents to be signed at the beginning of the next school year.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The purpose of the school parental involvement policy is to ensure that strong strategies are in place to build the capacity to involve parents in an effective partnership with the school and share and support high student academic achievement. The school and parents must jointly develop and agree on the policy. It is revised every year to meet the changing needs of parents. Finally, the policy is distributed to parents in multiple ways. The school district also has a district parental involvement policy. It is revised every year and a copy of this document is also distributed to parents in multiple ways.

PARENT SURVEY

At the beginning and end of the school year, schools distribute a parent questionnaire. The results of this survey are used to review the effectiveness of parent activities. Feedback from these surveys is very important. The school parental involvement policy and school activities are developed from feedback parents give on these surveys.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTERS

There are two parent resource centers available for your use to support you and the education of your children. The goal of all of the parent resource centers is to share the benefits of parental involvement and take advantage of available services that lead to the academic success of children.

- **School Parent Resource Centers**

Each Title I school has a parent resource room or area where you can obtain valuable resources on how to support your child's academic efforts in math, science, social studies, reading and English Language Arts.

- Contact: Your school or Parent Involvement Coordinator
- Hours: School hours

- **District Family Resource Corner**

The district family resource center is located at the Butts County Public Library. Here you can find valuable information on supporting your student academically.

- Location: 436 East College Street Jackson, GA
- Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-8:00
Fri-Sat 9:00-6:00

CURRICULUM

The Butts County School System follows the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in K-12 English Language Arts and K-12 Mathematics. We follow the Georgia Performance Standards in K-12 Science and K-12 Social Studies. Additional grade and content specific information on the standards that outlines exactly what students are expected to know and be able to do can be found at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS INFORMATION

NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS

The National Education goals are the focus for education reform and describe how educational systems can be measured. Congress approved the goals and they are:

- (1) School Readiness - all children in America will start school ready to learn.
- (2) School Completion - high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.
- (3) Student Achievement and Citizenship - students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency in academic subjects so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship.
- (4) Teacher Education and Professional Development - educators will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills.
- (5) Mathematics and Science - students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.
- (6) Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning - every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- (7) Safe, Disciplined and Alcohol and Drug-Free Schools - every school in the United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol.
- (8) Parental Participation - every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting growth of children.

GEORGIA STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

The Butts County School System administers all state mandated assessments. The purpose of the assessment program is to measure student achievement on state required curriculum and content mastery. The primary assessments are: Georgia End of Grade Assessments in grades 3-8, End of Course Test (EOCT) grades 9-12, Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) in Kindergarten, Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) in grades 3-8 and 11 and Georgia Writing Assessment programs 3, 5, 8 and 11. Other assessments include ACCESS for ELL students, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) for non-tested grades. Students are also offered opportunities to participate in the PSAT, Advanced Placement (AP), Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT). In addition to these assessments,

the Butts County School System administers district-wide common assessments. Schools also develop their own additional assessments to indicate student mastery of content.

COMMON CORE GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards provide a consistent framework to prepare students for success in college and/or the 21st century workplace. These standards provide relevant content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills.

GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Georgia Performance Standards are both content and performance standards. The standards are definitive in what a student should know and be able to do.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS INDEX (CCRPI)

Under the Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver, Georgia's new accountability index is the College and Career Readiness Index (CCRPI).

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) will no longer be used. It is designated to rate school performance. The new reporting is calculated with appropriate indicators for elementary, middle and high schools, and will yield an in-depth analysis of students' college and career readiness. It will measure the extent to which a school, school district and the state are successfully making progress in a number

of key areas, such as content mastery, student attendance and the next level of preparation. Stakeholders will now have a complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not. Beginning in December

2012, every school in the state will receive a numerical index score out of 100 points called the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) number. Using 2010-2011 school year assessment and graduation rate data, a percentage of Title I schools will be identified as Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert Schools. These new school designations provide a deeper understanding

of what resources schools need in order to be successful in their efforts to prepare students to be college and career ready.

- **Reward School:** highest-performing (top 5% of Title I: highest performance of all students for 3 years or highest graduation rates) or high progress (Top 10% of Title I: highest progress in performance of all students for 3 years or highest progress in increasing graduation rates).
- **Priority School:** a school among the lowest 5% of Title I Schools in the state based on specific achievement factors.
- **Focus School:** accounts for 10% of Title I Schools with a large gap between their highest-achieving subgroup and their lowest-achieving subgroup or schools that have had a graduation rate lower than 60% for two years in a row.
- **Alert School:** these can be both Title I and non-Title I schools that have low graduation rates, low achievement in a particular student subgroup or low achievement in a particular content subject.