

# Title I



What Parents Need to Know!



# What do we believe?

## VISION:

EXCELLENCE, ENGAGEMENT,  
ACCOUNTABILITY...FOR ALL.

The Mission of the Decatur County School System is to empower all students to engage and succeed in a global society by providing rigorous and equitable opportunities, nurturing environments, sustained partnerships, college and career readiness, and character development.

# What is Title I?

Title I is a program that provides funds from the federal government to improve student learning.



# Elementary and Secondary Education Act

ESEA is a federal education law that was passed in 1965.

Title I is one portion of ESEA.

Title I targets students who are economically disadvantaged based on free and reduced lunch qualifications.

# Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Each school and school district are measured by how well students are progressing towards and meeting standards.

All students are required to make progress as measured by state tests (such as the CRCT in Georgia).

A “report card” is published annually describing the progress of each school. This year the reporting process will be different.

# Elementary and Secondary Education Act

The Georgia Department of Education submitted to the US Department of Education an application requesting flexibility through waivers of ten ESEA requirements.

February 9, 2012 – Georgia's ESEA Flexibility waiver was approved

Waiver will change the state reporting process and allows greater flexibility with federal funding.

# Public School Choice

Under ESEA Waiver, local educational agencies will no longer be required to implement Choice or pay for Choice transportation as implemented under No Child Left Behind.

Choice defined : If a student attended a school that did not make AYP, they could choose to attend a school within the system that was making AYP if space allowed. The school system would bear the burden of transportation costs.

Has not applied due to all 5 elementary schools making AYP and Decatur County has only one school at grade levels 5-12. In addition, no surrounding counties would enter into agreement with us to provide choice.

# Georgia's Intradistrict Transfer Option

Replaces Public School Choice

Allows parents to continue to enroll in a school other than their assigned school that is located within the school district if space allows. Transportation is responsibility of parent, not the district.

Is not an option for Decatur County because all five elementary schools are making adequate progress and we only have one school that serves students in grades 5-12.



# Flexible Learning Program

- ▣ Supplemental Educational Services have been replaced with the provision of a Flexible Learning Program.
- ▣ Focus and Priority Schools will be required to provide a program that provides intervention strategies to eligible students.
- ▣ Parents will be notified of eligibility and program details will be shared in parent notifications and meetings.

# Accountability

This year we will transition from needs improvement (NI) distinctions based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to the following distinctions:

Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert

Distinctions will be based on Georgia's new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) which will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia.

Distinctions are based on state assessments and graduation rate.

# School Distinctions

Reward – Highest Performing percent of Title I Schools and Highest Progress (will be announced in Fall)

Priority – Identified every three years as the lowest overall achieving schools and these schools will be required to offer a Flexible Learning Programs.

Focus – Identified every three years for having large gaps with-in school subgroups. These schools will be required to offer a Flexible Learning Program.

Alert - Identified annually based on disaggregated subgroups or subject performance

# Decatur County Schools

- ▣ Bainbridge High School and Bainbridge Middle School are Focus Schools and will offer a Flexible Learning Program for eligible students.
- ▣ Hutto Middle School and all five elementary schools are not identified as focus, priority or alert schools.

# Standardized Testing

All students are required to participate in standardized testing.

All certified teachers and staff members are trained annually on testing policies and procedures.

Should you at any time suspect cheating, a testing irregularity, or any suspicious activity, please submit your concern in writing to the Office of Federal Programs Director, Dr. April Aldridge.

# Why does our school receive Title I funding?

Schools in which 35% or more of students are from low-income families may receive Title I funding.

All schools in Decatur County qualify for school-wide Title I Programs.



# School Wide Plan

- ▣ Every Title I School is required to have a written plan that guides learning.
- ▣ A copy of this plan is available for your review and suggestions.

# Teacher Qualifications

All teachers and paraprofessionals in Title I schools must meet requirements to be “highly qualified.”

Parents of students in Title I schools have the right to know the professional qualifications of staff working with their child.

Decatur County employs 100% highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals.



# Parent Involvement

Thirty years of research has shown that students whose parents are involved have:

- higher achievement in reading
- better attendance
- positive attitude toward school
- better behavior
- higher test scores
- higher graduation rates

# Parent Involvement Policy & Plan

Each Title I school must develop a written policy describing how the school will support the important role of parents in their child's learning.

A copy of this plan is available for your review and suggestions.

# Parental Involvement Decatur County

- ▣ School Parent Resource Center
- ▣ Decatur County Parent Resource Center  
Support Center – 507 Martin Street
- ▣ Parental Involvement Website linked to  
[www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com).
- ▣ Parental Involvement Coordinator
  - Dr. Cheryl Guy – Please feel free to contact for assistance at [cguy@dcboe.com](mailto:cguy@dcboe.com) or at 243-6847.

# Compact

Title I schools must have a written statement, signed by all parties, listing specific duties of school staff, parents, and students.

The compact tells parents what you can do to support your child's academic progress.

# District Wide Plans

A copy of Decatur County District Wide Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan and the District Parent Involvement Plan can be found in the District Parent Resource Center or viewed at [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com) under the Federal Programs link.

Forms are provided for your feedback and can be submitted at any time to [aaldrige@dcboe.com](mailto:aaldrige@dcboe.com).

# Section 504

The Decatur County School System has the responsibility of ensuring that all students with disabilities are identified, evaluated and provided with needed accommodations and services, resulting in a free and appropriate public education. Please refer to your Student Handbook or view at [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com) the following documents:

Notice of Rights of Students and Parents under Section 504  
Decatur County 504 Procedural Safeguards

For more information regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitations Act , please visit our website at [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com)

# McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Under federal law, homeless children and youth must have access to appropriate public education, including preschool, and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards. Our schools will ensure that homeless children and youth are free from discrimination, segregation, and harassment.

Anyone having a concern regarding any child or youth that may be homeless should contact the following for assistance:

Allison Harrell at [arharrell@dcboe.com](mailto:arharrell@dcboe.com),

Dr. April Aldridge at [aaldridge@dcboe.com](mailto:aaldridge@dcboe.com) or 229-248-2836, or

The Building Administrator

For more information regarding Decatur County's policies and procedures to assist homeless students, please visit the Federal Programs link at [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com).

# Attendance Protocol

Decatur County Schools has developed a protocol for addressing and decreasing the incidence of truancy in Decatur County.

Please make sure that you have received and reviewed the attendance protocol for the 2012-2013 school year.



# Safety

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all school sites are under surveillance to ensure the safety of all our students and staff members.

# Complaint Procedures

- ▣ Please visit [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com) to review the procedure for filing a complaint.
- ▣ All written complaints should be submitted to:

Dr. April Aldridge  
Director of Federal Programs  
507 Martin Street  
Bainbridge, GA 39817

# Questions?

You may also contact:  
Dr. April Aldridge  
Federal Programs Director  
[aaldrige@dcboe.com](mailto:aaldrige@dcboe.com)  
229-248-2836