

GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM 2020-2021 TITLE I INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015 and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure reauthorized the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents and students across the country. The Every Student Succeeds Act can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website at: <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

WHAT IS TITLE I?

Title I is a part of ESSA. 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 parent and family engagement. Additionally, ESSA 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 ESSA. Schools are given funding based on the number of children who qualify for free or reduced price lunch. All schools in the Griffin-Spalding County School System are designated as Title I for the 2020-2021 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 staff that meet professional qualifications.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLWIDE SCHOOLS?

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 Griffin-Spalding County School System are designated as Title I Schoolwide Schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding Title I can be found on the:

- GA Department of Education website: <http://www.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>
- US Department of Education website: <http://www.ed.gov/>

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities including ensuring that:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child's education at school.
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in ESSA.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Some opportunities for parent and family engagement include parent workshops, parent advisory committees, school council, PTO, parent volunteers, school planning meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS

Each school has a Parent and Community Engagement Liaison(s) 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.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The purpose of the school parent and family engagement policy is to ensure that strong strategies are in place to build the capacity of parents, to engage parents in an effective partnership with the school and to 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 parent and family engagement policy. It is revised every year and a copy of this document is also distributed to parents in multiple ways.

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 is distributed to all parents to be signed at the beginning of the next school year.

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 parent and family engagement 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 parent and family engagement and provide 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 and English language arts.

- Contact: Your school or Parent and Community Engagement Liaison
- Hours: School hours

- **District Parent Resource Center**

The district family resource center has DVDs, books and audio CDs available for parent checkout. You will also find valuable information on supporting your student academically.

- Location: Room B112, Parent Services Center at 234 E. Taylor Street, Griffin
- Contact: Melinda Owens, District Family and Community engagement Specialist at 770-229-3710 ext. 10363 or at melinda.owens@gscs.org
- Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by appointment

ACADEMIC STANDARDS INFORMATION

GEORGIA STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Georgia Student Assessment Program is to measure student achievement on the state-adopted content standards and increase efforts to improve teaching and learning. Results of the assessment program are utilized to identify students failing to achieve mastery of content, to provide teachers with feedback about instructional practice and to assist school districts in identifying strengths and weaknesses in order to establish priorities in planning educational programs. The primary assessments include the Georgia Milestones Assessment System: End of Grade (EOG) in grades 3-8 and End of Course (EOC) in grades 9-12. Students in grades 3 through 8 take an end-of-grade assessment in English language arts and mathematics while students in grades 5 are also assessed in science and students in grades 8 are also assessed in science and social studies. High school students take an end-of-course assessment in Algebra I, American Literature, Biology and U.S. History designated by the State Board of Education. The school system will continue to administer the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) in kindergarten and the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) in grades 3-8 and 11. Other assessments include Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) for English Learner (EL) students and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Students are also offered opportunities to participate in the PSAT, SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement (AP). In addition to these assessments, the Griffin-Spalding County School System administers assessments for ELA, math, science and social studies through the year with Mastery Connect and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) platforms in a variation of grades 1-12. Schools also develop their own assessments to indicate student mastery of content.

CURRICULUM

The Griffin-Spalding County School System (GSCS) will follow the Georgia Standards of Excellence in K-12 English language arts, mathematics, science and 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>.

GSCS is creating curriculum guides using the Rigorous Curriculum Design (RCD) model. The curriculum guides serve as road maps that provide guidance to teacher to ensure that all students have access to a rigorous curriculum. These will be used in all schools. For more information on RCD, please go to <http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/Students--Parents/index.html>.

GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The State Board of Education (SBOE) requires school systems to use the Georgia Standards of Excellence for English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding the Georgia Standards of Excellence can be found at:

- ELA Georgia Standards of Excellence: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/ELA.aspx>
- Math Georgia Standards of Excellence: <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Mathematics.aspx>

- Science Georgia Standards of Excellence:<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Science.aspx>
- Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence:
<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Social-Studies.aspx>

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCRPI)

Georgia's current accountability index is the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). It is designed to rate school performance. The reporting method 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. As of December 2012, every school in the state will receive a numerical index score out of 100 points called the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score. Additionally, a percentage of Title I schools will be identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement or Targeted Support and Improvement 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.

REFERENCES:

Information obtained from the following websites:

- **GA DOE Website:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>
- **US DOE Website:** <http://www.ed.gov>