

TITLE 1 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Realizing the Dream: A World Class School District



Olympia School District - 1113 Legion Way SE - Olympia, WA 98501 - (360) 596-7541

What is Title 1?

It's the largest federal aid program for our nation's schools. Every year each state receives a basic grant for the program. The state then sends the money to school districts based on the number of low income families.

What is the purpose of Title 1 Schools?

Title 1 funds remedial education programs for poor and disadvantaged children so all children can obtain a high quality education. The idea is to close the achievement gap between schools that have more and schools that have less.

- It provides extra help for struggling students
- Children living in a Title 1 school are eligible for extra assistance regardless of family income.



How is Title 1 funding determined?

Funding for this program is determined by poverty rate...free and reduced lunch count. The district uses a funding formula to determine how much each school receives.

- Schoolwide Schools are those schools which serve ALL students through a schoolwide model that focuses on whole school improvement. Madison, Garfield, and Roosevelt are currently our Schoolwide Title 1 schools
- Target Assist Schools are those schools which serve selected children who are most at-risk academically. We do not have any schools using this model this year.

What does Title 1 pay for?

Title 1 supports the regular classroom program at the elementary and secondary levels. It supplements but does not replace the core instruction.

- Funding is used for "proven" teaching methods and programs like extended day or all-day kindergarten, small group intervention, home visits, pre-school teachers and assistants, hiring specialized K-5 teachers and assistants, afterschool programs, 1:1 tutoring, supplementary materials, computer assisted learning, parent involvement activities, or staff training.
- Private schools in the district are eligible for funds as well. Currently St. Michaels receives district Title 1 money.

What is a Title 1 school and what does it have to do with No Child Left Behind?

A Title 1 school is a school that has received federal Title 1 money through a statewide grant allocation process.

- Title 1 schools began with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, part of the War on Poverty.
- It has been reauthorized twice: first as the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 and then again as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).
- The commitment has always been the same: to provide poor schools and districts with resources to help students at risk.
- Parents have every right to know the progress of their child, their school, staff qualifications, and their district.

The intent of NCLB is to improve the performance of America's elementary and secondary schools by four cornerstones:

- ensure that no child is trapped in a failing school
- increase accountability for states, districts, and schools
- provide choices for parents and students, particularly those in low-performing schools
- strongly emphasize reading, especially for our youngest children.



What are the elements of No Child Left Behind?

1. Teachers and Paraprofessionals Must Be Highly Qualified

- **Teachers:** Teachers must be “highly qualified” by holding a bachelor’s degree and passing a state test.
- **Paraprofessionals:** Teacher Assistants in Title 1 schools must have completed two years of college or pass a test in reading, writing, and math.
- **Right to Know:** You may ask the school at any time to find out: whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade or subject he/she is teaching, whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certification through which state qualifications were waived, and what undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including certificates and additional degrees, and majors or areas of concentration. You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional and the school can provide you with information about his/her qualifications.

2. All Students are tested - All Schools Must Make Progress

- **Annual Testing:** All students in grades 3-8 must take a test in reading and math.
- **Adequate Yearly Progress:** These test scores will determine if your school is making progress. The idea is to ensure that all groups of students continue to learn.
- **School and District Report Cards:** Reporting annual test scores will tell how successful your school has been in reaching all groups of students. You will also be able to compare your school with others. Check out our district’s website for each school’s report card.

3. More Choices for Parents

You will have more options if your child’s school “needs improvement” as determined by the state:

- You can transfer your child to a school of choice at district expense if your school is in Step 1 of Improvement
- Supplemental services will be offered such as tutoring, after school programs, and summer schools at no cost to families when a school is in Step 2 of Improvement.

4. Restructuring Schools In Need of Improvement

A series of steps are taken each year if a school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress in 37 areas. These sanctions are progressive. The ultimate goal is for students to become successful.



How are parents involved in Title 1 Schools?

Every district has a family involvement policy that describes different ways that families can be involved in the Title 1 program:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Decision Making
6. Collaborating with the community

A district Parent Advisory Committee meets throughout the year to plan, evaluate, and review the Title 1 Program. Representatives from each Title 1 building participate in this forum. Every attempt is made to reach out to all parents and families.

In addition, the family, school, and students share in the responsibility of student learning by signing a school compact.



Summary

The goal of Title 1 is to provide funds so that each and every child has a high quality education. Title 1 gives that extra support to students and schools that need it the most.

Contact Information

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