

# **Title I Talks Newsletter**

## **Grove Elementary School**

### **A Title I Schoolwide School**

#### **Ms. Deborah Bauer, Principal**

#### **2010-2011**

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#### **Purpose of Title I**

Title I (of the federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation) is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.

Title I provides greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange made for this flexibility.

#### **Components of a Title I Schoolwide Program**

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- Schoolwide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the State's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by a highly qualified staff.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are conducted to increase parent involvement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary, and from elementary to middle school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.

#### **Parental Involvement**

Parental involvement is an integral part of the Title I program. Parents are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.

A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success. Materials, strategies, and help from are available to all parents within a Title I school. Opportunities for active parent participation should include, but not be limited to: open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, monthly newsletters, and more.

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent involvement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent involvement.

#### **Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact**

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents regarding the development of a parent involvement policy and a school-parent compact.

The parent involvement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs.

The school-parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

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#### **Title I Participation**

Grove Elementary School continually monitors the implementation of the Title I plan and welcomes input from parents, school staff, and community members regarding its current and future Title I plans. A copy of the Title I Plan is available in the office. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact the principal at 864-355-5900. Thank you!

Greenville County Schools provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the Greenville County Board of Education. Textbooks used in the classrooms have been reviewed by a committee of teachers and adopted and endorsed by the State Department of Education. Specific educational programs in each school are targeted to meet the identified needs of the children in the school.

Greenville County Public Schools administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students. The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards Test (PASS), is part of the state assessment program, and is given to students in grades three through eight and measures student performance on the state standards. Children in kindergarten and first grade take the AIMSWEB to determine the students' readiness for first and second grade. To monitor student progress throughout the year, all students are given teacher-prepared and textbook-provided assessments.

Based upon requirements of *No Child Left Behind*, all students in grades three through eight are expected to score "Met" or "Exemplary" on PASS by the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

### **Parent's Right to Know**

As a parent of a student enrolled at Grove, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the principal.

### **South Carolina Department of Education Complaint Resolution Procedures**

The State Department of Education (SDE) has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

- Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.
- Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated. Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
- The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint. The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.
- The final decision of the SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Education.

### **Title I Expenditures for 2010-2011**

The *No Child Left Behind* legislation includes provisions for all children to score "Met" or "Exemplary" on PASS by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. To aid in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan that was jointly developed by the members of the school's Title I planning team.

- Tutoring to be provided during the Day and After School
- Intervention teachers to assist students with Math and ELA
- Teachers to reduce class size
- Instructional Materials
- Increased technology
- Parent Involvement as follows: Bi-lingual Parent Coordinator, supplies, copying, printing and catering
- Professional Development as follows: Additional Instructional Coach, training, books, and materials.

The staff of Grove responds to all written and oral parent concerns, problems, recommendations, or commendations related to the Title I school program within 24 hours or by the next school day, whichever comes first. If needed or requested, school officials also inform parents or other interested parties of the issue's disposition. All issues related to Title I compliance submitted by parents or other interested parties are filed with the principal and with the Federal Programs Office."

A copy of the Title I Plan is available in the front office.

**Deborah Bauer, Principal**