

---

*Title I Newsletter*

*Sandhills Primary School*

*A Title I Schoolwide School*

*Holly Miller, Principal*

*Brenda Connelly, Assistant Principal*

*2022-2023*

---

### **Purpose of Title I**

Title I (of the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act*) 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.

### **Title I Participation**

Sandhills Primary 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. If you would like to participate on the school's Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact Leslie Hightower at (803) 490-7000 or [lhightower@lexington4.net](mailto:lhightower@lexington4.net).

### **School-wide Title I Initiatives at Lexington Four Sandhills Primary School**

- **Provide a full-time interventionist for each grade level.**
- **Provide technology software to enhance learning and parent/family engagement for all students.**
- **Provide parenting support for families, including leadership opportunities.**
- **Provide additional parent and family engagement activities.**
- **Provide professional development to teachers and staff.**
- **Provide materials to support balanced literacy and standards-based math to all students.**

### **Parent and Family Engagement**

Parent and family engagement 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 teachers are available to all parents within a Title I school. Opportunities for active parent and family participation should include, but not be limited to open house, parent workshops, home-school compacts, home visitation, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, newsletters, and more.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent and family engagement expenditures.

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

As a parent of a student enrolled at SPS, 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 Human Resources Department at 490-7000 or your child's principal.

### **Student Assessments**

Sandhills Primary provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the South Carolina Curriculum Standards. Upon entering grade one, students are given the universal screener *MAP Reading Fluency*. This screener provides information on students who may be experiencing reading difficulties. Students in grades one and two are also assessed with *MAP Growth* in the fall, winter, and spring. *MAP Growth* provides student scores for English Language Arts and mathematics grade level achievement and demonstrates student growth. These assessments, along with other teacher assessments, provide staff with information to tailor classroom instruction for students.

## **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.

### **Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-School Compact**

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

The parent and family engagement 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. The SPS Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home-school Compact may be found on the school website ([www.lexington4.net/SPS](http://www.lexington4.net/SPS)). We encourage parents/guardians to read these documents and provide input. Please send any comments and/or suggestions to Leslie Hightower, Director of State and Federal Programs at [lhightower@lexington4.net](mailto:lhightower@lexington4.net). You may also send comments and/or suggestions to your child's principal.

### ***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 and family engagement.*
- *Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary.*
- *Measures are taken to include teachers in decisions about assessment.*
- *Activities are conducted to ensure that students with learning difficulties receive assistance.*