



West End Elementary's Annual Title I Newsletter 2024-2025 School Year



August 2024

West End Elementary School 314 Pelzer Highway Easley, SC 29642

<http://wes.pickens.k12.sc.us/> (864) 397-2500

Purpose

Title I (of the federal *No Child Left Behind Legislation* and the 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 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.

Participation

West End Elementary School 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/School Improvement Council, or make comments about the plan, please contact Kela Simpson (Title I Facilitator) or Kimberly Robson (Principal) at (864) 397-2500.

Title I Planning Team Members:

Kimberly Robson-Principal
Gary Mohr-Assistant Principal
Colin Rork- Assistant Principal
Ashley Harper- School Staff
Kelly Snyder-School Staff
Jessica Smith-School Counselor
Mallory Pustaver and Matthew Echols- Parents
Diana Campo Cabarello- Parent
Lili Alcaraz- Parent
Courtney Williams- Parent
Maggie Haynie- Parent
Kim Keeney- Parent
Sharon Wright- Parent
Mike Bowers- Parent
Zach Shaw- Parent/Community Partner
April Zamor- Teacher/Interpreter
Chad Hall -Community Partner
Brian Parker- Community Partner
Leah Pangel- Community Partner
Kela Simpson-Title 1 Facilitator*
Joy Stewart-Pupil Services Personnel*
Amy Turner- Coordinator of Federal Programs
Kerry Tucker- District Title 1 Facilitator*
Savannah Gantt- 1st Grade Teacher*
Lindsey Jordan- 4th Grade Teacher*
Jaida Smith- 3rd Grade Teacher*
Bryson Garvin- Sp. Education Assistant*
Samantha Westbrook – Reading/Math Interventionist*
Carol Jo Baumgarner- Reading/Math Interventionist*
Livie Turner- Sp. Education Teacher
Amy Tate- Sp. Education Assistant
Jennifer Setzer- K5 Teacher
Leslie Scheffer- 3rd Grade Teacher
Jenny Lang- 1st Grade Teacher
Isle Hawkins- World Language Teacher
Kayla Gifford- K4 Teacher
Savannah Gantt- 1st Grade Teacher*
Carly Bruner- 5th Grade Teacher
Karlie Brigman-2nd Grade Teacher

**TI Funded employee as well*

Parent & Family Engagement Policy & Compact

Title I schools are required to ask for input from parents regarding the development of a Parent and Family Engagement Policy as well as a Parent/School Compact. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs. This policy also describes ways that parents can participate in planning these programs. The Parent/School 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. Rough drafts of these documents will be coming home with interim reports on September 4. Please review and send feedback to your child's teacher by September 13. The Title I Planning Team will meet to revise and compile final versions of these documents to send for signatures from parents, students, and teachers.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement is an integral part of the Title I Program. Families 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 writing 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 participation at West End Elementary include; but are not limited to, parent night meetings/open house meetings, a Parent Resource Center, parent compacts, conferences, “Parents as Leaders” workshops, school social media accounts, Schoology, teacher newsletters, and more. Parents should contact Kela Simpson or Kimberly Robson with any comments or suggestions regarding the school’s parent engagement expenditures.

Collection and Review of Parent and Family Suggestions

- Parent Suggestions will be collected at Parent Events and Workshops throughout the year.
- Recommendations about the Title I programs and parent engagement will be recorded for discussion at Title I Meetings.
 - Review of Parent Engagement will be reviewed at the Title I/SIC Planning Team meeting the first nine weeks.
 - Review of the Title I program will be reviewed and discussed by all stakeholders at the scheduled spring meeting.



Decisions Regarding Parent Suggestions

- Stakeholders will discuss collected parent suggestions at the school level Title I/SIC Planning Team meeting.
- Changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy of the Title I Plan may be proposed after the discussion.
- Additions or deletions to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy or the Title I Plan will only be made if there is consensus by the stakeholders to make additions or deletions based on the input or suggestions

PARENTS’ RIGHT TO KNOW

We are pleased to notify you that in accordance with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s teacher. Specifically, you may request the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. If you would like to receive this information, please contact your child’s school to make a request for information.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



At West End, our mission is
to empower every student to
be a leader and a learner.

Why a Title I School?

West End Elementary is a Title I school based on the percentage of pupils in poverty. We are one of eight Title I schools in our school district. Being a Title I school is important because this distinction allows West End to provide additional opportunities for our students and families. This distinction allows us to add teaching positions to help maintain lower class sizes, provide additional services and unique experiences for our students and their families, provide facilitators to implement West End's Title I plan, maintain a parent resource room, and provide a family liaison. West End also, has additional funds to purchase needed student and classroom supplies. We continue to work to build a library of materials for parents to sign-out for use when working with children at home and to provide after school tutoring to children in need of a little extra help.



colors and shapes, we can help! If your third grader needs assistance memorizing his or her multiplication facts, we can help! Whatever the need, we want to help! Schedule a time to come in and meet with Kela Simpson by emailing kelasimpson@pickens.k12.sc.us. You may also call (864) 397-2520, or send her a message through Schoology or the West End Facebook page. We hope all of our parents will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Check out our Parent Resource

Center! Did you know that the location of our Parent Resource Center has changed? We are located near the front entrance in our small parent conference room. Come check us out! At West End Elementary, we are here to help you with your child's school needs. If your K4 child needs practice with

Preparing Students for College and Career Readiness

The shared vision of the South Carolina State Department of Education is to ensure that every student meets the 21st Century Profile of the South Carolina High School Graduate so that students are ready for the military, the workforce, a community college, or university. This profile outlines the knowledge, skills, and characteristics necessary for a student to possess at the time of graduation. To meet this goal, teachers in the School District of Pickens County (SDPC) provide high-quality instruction through the use of a variety of strategies and curriculum designed to help students master the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards. The SDPC administers a variety of standardized assessments to its students through the state assessment program. Students in grades 3-8 take SCReady to measure knowledge of the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards. Second grade students take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to measure their academic achievement on ELA and Math standards and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for Gifted and Talented placement. Kindergarten students take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to determine their level of readiness for kindergarten instruction. K4 students take the DIAL 4 and PALS Readiness Assessment to test motor, concepts, language, self-help, and social development. To monitor student progress in ELA and Math throughout the year, the iReady tests are administered to students in grades K-8 three times during the year. Additional classroom-based assessments are used by teachers to closely monitor student progress and to ensure academic growth and mastery of skills.



Title I Expenditures for West End Elementary for the 2024-2025 School Year

To aid in improving student achievement, the activities listed below are included in the school's Title I plan that was developed jointly by the members of the school's Title I/School Improvement Council Planning Team in the spring of 2024.

- Purchase instructional supplies for English Language Arts and Mathematics instruction
- Provide and/or purchase books, periodicals, or newspapers for classrooms
- Purchase writing supplies and/or other classroom supplies to improve academic achievement
- Provide and/or purchase technology to meet the needs of classrooms and students
- Provide a positive behavioral system- "Leader in Me"- Essential Behaviors/7Habits
- Provide quarterly workshops and family night events on topics to support your child's education
- Provide two parent conference nights (fall and spring)
- Provide reading experiences for students above and beyond non-Title 1 schools
- Provide WIN (What I Need) time in order to address the needs of lower-achieving and advanced students in reading and mathematics
- Provide before and after school tutoring/enrichment programs for students
- Provide professional development for West End Elementary teachers
- Employ 3 extra classroom teachers, 1 Title 1 Facilitator, 2 Reading/Math Interventionists, and 1 teaching assistant
- Provide meetings, parent workshops, family nights, visitation days, and frequent communication for parents to give opportunities to be involved in their child's education

Communication

Do you need to communicate with someone at the school, but you're not sure where to start? Is it hard to keep up with everything that is going on at West End Elementary? There are a number of ways to keep up with what is going on at and/or to contact teachers and staff. Here's a helpful list:



School Phone – 864-397-2500 **A list of extensions is available on our webpage*

Webpage – West End Elementary's webpage can be found at <http://wes.pickens.k12.sc.us/>

Schoology - Schoology is great for checking grades, assignments, and attendance information online. You can also message your child's teacher! It will also contain links to instructional information posted for specific classes designed to reinforce information taught in the classroom. Parents should have received access codes. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Teacher E-Mail - All teachers and staff have e-mail addresses available on the West End Elementary webpage.

Classroom Telephones - All teachers have phones in their classrooms that receive calls before and after school. During the school day, incoming calls go to voicemail. Messages for calls that teachers can return after school can be left on voicemail. For calls such as transportation changes that need a more immediate response, please contact the school at 397-2500. A list of extensions is available on our webpage.

Teacher Newsletters - Many teachers send weekly newsletters and/or daily behavior charts. Please check your child's communication folder for these.

Facebook - Be sure to like West End on Facebook @ West End Elementary

Instagram- Follow us on our school Instagram account @westendelem

Conferences – Conferences may be requested at any time. Please contact your child's teacher via email, note, or telephone if you need to schedule a conference.

**It is the policy of West End Elementary to return phone calls, messages, and notes as quickly as possible or within 24 hours.*