

Title 1 Program Overview

**Washington Elementary School
Bessemer Area School District**

What is Title 1?

Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Federal funds are currently allocated through four statutory formulas that are based primarily on census poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state.



How does WES spend its Title 1 allocation?

Funds are used to support school-wide interventions provided by teachers and highly qualified paraprofessionals for students who have been identified through the district's screening process.

95% of funds are used for interventions, with 5% of the funds being used to administer department-approved screening and diagnostic tools and data interpretation.



How does Title 1 fit in with the School Improvement Plan?

K-3rd grade student data is reviewed by grade level teams and members of the Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District's MTSS/Student Assistance Team. Data is reviewed throughout the year by the School Improvement team for progress monitoring and goal setting purposes.



How are our students assessed to measure progress?

We use progress monitoring, Renaissance Learning STAR Early Literacy/Reading testing, Reading A-Z, curriculum-based measurements, MLPP, and grade level benchmark testing (teacher created as well as formative and summative testing).



What is our communication process with parents?

The Bessemer Area School District communicates information to parents/guardians through:

- Flyers, Friday Notes, telephone calls, emails, the School Messenger system, the school calendar, school webpage, and school facebook page



What is in our family engagement plan?

- Family members are encouraged to volunteer in their student's classroom and to join the school's Parent/Teacher Organization
- A Title 1 parent meeting is held annually during our Open House event



What is our family/school compact?

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy developed under ESSA Section 1116(b), each school served under Title I, Part A shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under Title I, Part A, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic 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 (ESSA Section 1116[d]).

Such compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I, Part A to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extra-curricular time; and
2. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 1. **Parent-teacher conferences** in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 2. **Frequent reports to parents** on their children's progress;
 3. **Reasonable access to staff**, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
 4. **Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff**, and to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand (ESSA Section 1116[d][1-2]).



What do parents have the right to know?

At the beginning of each school year, a Local Educational Agency (LEA) that receives Title I funds must notify parents of each student attending any Title I school that the parent may request, and the agency will provide the parents upon request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualifications for grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other professional status that the State has waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher;
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so their qualifications.



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