

Newburyport Public Schools Title I Program

Parent Involvement Policy



Overview

One of the requirements of the federal Title I Program is for school districts to provide parents and guardians of students receiving Title I services with a ***Parent Involvement Policy***. Title I services will be provided to all eligible elementary schools, in Newburyport's case Francis T. Bresnahan and the Molin Elementary School.

The Newburyport Public Schools are committed to **the goal of providing a high-quality education** for every student. This goal can best be achieved when a strong home-school partnership is formed. Since **parents play a critical role in the success** of their child in school, we ask that you help us by participating in our Title I program by:

- attending events held throughout the year at school
- reading information made available to you
- communicating regularly with your child's Title I teacher and classroom teacher
- supporting the daily instructional work at home
- Read, Read, Read

Together, we can foster a strong foundation in your child's literacy development.

Parent Involvement in the Title I Home-School Partnership

The Title I team provides parents with many communications throughout the year, invitations to Title I and school events, and an informational website. There are many opportunities for parents to learn more and stay informed, such as the following:

Annual School Events

- **Fall School Open House in September** – Meet the Title I staff and learn about the Title I program and the three tiers of literacy interventions offered.
- **Fall Informational Session** – Meet with your child's Title I teacher to learn about the daily lesson format, instructional reading and writing strategies, grade-level reading expectations, and ways to help your child at home.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences in January** – a scheduled appointment to meet with your child's Title I teacher to discuss your child's learning progress, share thoughts and observations, and recommendations for the next steps.
- **Annual Parent Program Survey** – an annual survey available to parents both electronically (email) and on paper. Survey questions include topics to include in our parent information session, suggestions to enhance the clarity of our parent communications and events, and ways to strengthen parent involvement in our Title I program.

School Communications

- **Title I website** – Information, resources and instructional videos can be accessed at <http://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/bresnahan/TitleI/index.html>
- **Title I program brochure** –this includes our district mission statement, an explanation and requirements of the Title I federal grant, and Title I teacher contact information.
- [District Curriculum Accommodations Plan](#)
- **Informational Welcome letters with Parent Permission Slip** – when your child qualifies to receive Title I literacy services, you will receive a welcome letter from the Title I Reading Department. Title I teachers typically follow up by contacting parents and/or by forwarding additional information.
- **Parent Involvement Guidelines** and **School/Parent Compact** documents – these documents are requirements of the Title I federal grant.
 - The **Parent Involvement Guidelines** provide specific information and responsibilities for parents and the Title I team participating in the Title I home/school partnership.
 - The **School/Parent Compact** outlines the shared responsibility of the school/parent/student partnership in achieving individual student goals, and strengthening a student's literacy development, daily performance and ongoing progress. This compact must be signed by Title I teachers and parents. All compacts will be maintained in each student's Title I file.
- **Student Progress Reports** – you will receive a comprehensive progress report from your child's Title I teacher at the end of the lesson series. This report will include testing results from your child's initial and final literacy assessments, an explanation of your child's progress and performance, comments, and recommendations.
- **Ongoing contact with your child's Title I teacher throughout the lesson series** – written, electronic (email), or by phone. Title I teachers will confer with parents as needed. However, should questions or concerns arise, we encourage parents to contact their child's Title I teacher.
- **Title I Program inquiries** may be addressed to our Title I Director, LisaMarie Ippolito lippolito@newburyport.k12.ma.us

Parent Support at Home – Your Child’s Nightly homework

As mentioned, we ask that you accept the responsibility to ensure that your child is reading everyday at home.

- **Listen to your child reread his/her lesson books every night** so your child will make effective reading progress. Remember that consistently rereading books fosters literacy development – fluency, phrasing, expression, and rate, and increases comprehension. More importantly, it builds self-confidence and a love for reading. In addition, the attention and love you routinely give to your child supports healthy emotional development. This is your gift to your child. Research supports that student academic progress is greatest when good teaching and active parent support are both in place.
- If your child’s Title I teacher sends home a *Parent Communication Reading Log*, we ask that you sign it every night. This log helps students learn to take responsibility for their daily reading homework and shows them that you value reading, support good work habits, and appreciate their learning efforts.
- **Share the joy of reading, wondering, thinking and learning with your child.** Remember as you listen to your child reread familiar books, that your job is to keep it pleasurable. Enjoy talking about stories and illustrations, discussing non-fiction topics, and sharing additional information you know. Keep it conversational, like a book club. Leave the teaching to your child’s Title I teacher. She will teach and model reading and writing strategies, and show your child how to apply them. To ensure success and an enjoyable reading experience, the books your child brings home have typically been reread during lessons twice at school.
- **Monitor your child’s school attendance.** Make every effort to ensure that your child attends school, as well as planning family vacations during school holidays and vacation periods. Frequent absences interrupt the progress a child makes during literacy lessons. When attendance is inconsistent many students actually regress, particularly students who are at risk or are performing below grade level expectations.

Title I Federal Grant Parental Rights

- All parents of Title I students will receive written notification of all meetings and workshops sponsored by Title I.
- Parents with limited literacy skills will be provided the necessary assistance to participate in Title I programs.
- Title I communications will be available in alternative formats and in a language parents can understand.
- Parents will receive written notification if a teacher who does not meet the federal standard of highly qualified teachers has taught their child for four or more consecutive years.