

What Is a Title I School?

Information for Parents

A Title I school is a school that receives money from Title I – the oldest and largest federally funded education program in the US.

Title I provides money to schools with income-eligible students. Schools use these funds to help students who are academically at-risk, and to help ensure that all students meet state academic standards.



Title I Facts and Stats

More than
50% of public
schools receive
Title I funding.

Most Title I
funds go to help
students in
grades K-6.

There are
50,000+ Title I
schools
nationwide.

Title I provides
15+ billion
dollars a year
to schools.

Schools use Title I funding in a variety of ways. Keep reading to learn how these funds are used.

How do schools use Title I funds?

Here are just a few of the ways schools use Title I funds to improve their educational programs.

Additional teachers and teachers' aides

Teaching equipment and supplies

Individualized support for students

Parent involvement programs and materials

Parent involvement is an important part of Title I.

Title I schools understand that while in-school programs can help students a great deal, nothing is as crucial to a child's success as the involvement and support of a parent.

Here are some ways you can support your child.

- ▶ Make education a top priority in your home.
- ▶ Show consistent and genuine interest in what your child is learning in school.
- ▶ Make sure your child is in school every day, and support the teachers and administrators.
- ▶ Be involved. Attend parent programs, open houses, and conferences. Also, regularly check your school's website for news and updates.
- ▶ Monitor your child's academic progress. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your child's teacher(s) and/or counselor.



To review, watch this quick video.

Encourage Reading

Parents Make the Difference

Your encouragement and support are extremely important in helping your child develop their reading skills!

Whether your child is a new reader or is reading independently, parental engagement is an important part of literacy.



Why Reading Matters

Reading improves student concentration.

Reading helps students develop language skills.

Reading helps students do better in all subjects.

Reading fosters curiosity about the world we live in.

Reading with your child at home has huge benefits. Children who are read to at least three times a week are twice as likely to score in the top 25% on reading assessments.

Make Reading a Priority

Reading at home will help your child develop critical reading skills and build their vocabulary. Here's how you can help.

- ▶ Have family reading time—30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Show your child that reading is a way to pursue personal interests. Take your child to the library often to get books on topics of interest to them.
- ▶ Find a book series that's appropriate for your child's reading level (such as *Harry Potter*) and take turns reading pages or chapters.
- ▶ Give books for birthdays and other special occasions.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading newspapers, books, and magazines. Talk about the interesting things you learn.

Help young learners develop comprehension skills

Asking your child questions while you're reading (and when you're finished) will help your child develop important comprehension skills.

- ▶ *What do you think will happen next?*
- ▶ *Why do you think the character did that?*
- ▶ *How do you think the character feels in this picture?*



VIDEO

For more, watch this quick video!

Work with Your School

Parents Make the Difference

Everyone in your school wants your child to have a positive, successful year. Here are some things you can do to work with your school—and help your child succeed!



Work Together as a Team

Communicate with your school. Know the best way to contact your child's teacher(s)—email, phone, or text. If you ever have ever a question or concern, don't hesitate to contact them.

Stay informed. Attend all parent programs, meetings, and parent-teacher conferences. Also, regularly check your school's website for news and updates.

Know your school's support personnel. Many schools have tutors, aides, counselors, and social workers to assist students and parents who need help.

Work to resolve conflicts. If you ever disagree with a teacher or principal, try to resolve your disagreement calmly. Also, watch what you say in front of your child.

Participate in parent-teacher groups.

PTAs and PTOs help bring parents, teachers, and school administrators together. Your participation in a parent-teacher group demonstrates the value you place on your child's education, and it shows that you are committed to making your child's school the best it can be.

Make the most of conferences.

Parent-teacher conferences offer parents an excellent opportunity to both give and receive information. Teachers can provide updates on a child's academic and social progress, and parents can share information that will help a teacher better understand and connect with their child.

Before you go to a parent-teacher conference, make a list of the information you want to share, along with your questions and concerns. You will have a limited amount of time, so it's important to focus on the most important topics first. Here are some questions you might ask:

- ▶ How well does my child participate in class?
- ▶ Does my child use class time wisely?
- ▶ Are there any behavioral issues?
- ▶ Does my child pay attention in class?
- ▶ What are my child's strengths? Which skills should we work on at home?
- ▶ Does my child get along well with others?
- ▶ Is my child working up to their potential?
What can we do at home to help my child succeed?

For more on how to help your child succeed in school, watch this video.



Prioritize Homework

Parents Make the Difference

Establishing the importance and routine of doing homework helps students develop study habits that will help them to succeed in elementary school and beyond.

Make sure that your child understands the importance of completing homework accurately and on time.



The Benefits of Homework

Homework aids in learning.

Homework gives students the opportunity to practice the skills they learn in school.

Homework teaches responsibility.

When students are required to keep track of their assignments and complete them independently, they learn to be responsible. They also develop important skills, such as organization and time management.

Homework helps keep you informed. Homework is a great way for you to stay up-to-date on what your child is learning in school.

Homework Tips

The following tips will help you help your child develop successful homework habits.

- ▶ Create a schedule that makes homework a part of the daily routine.
- ▶ Make homework time a quiet time in your home. Turn off the TV and remove as many distractions as possible.
- ▶ Help your child learn how to organize and prioritize assignments. Ask your child what needs to be done, and then help them develop a plan.
- ▶ Projects and large assignments can sometimes seem overwhelming. Show your child how to break large assignments down into smaller, more manageable tasks.
- ▶ Your child may occasionally ask for assistance with homework. Be available to help if they get stuck or have questions, but don't do the work yourself—or give more help than is requested or needed.
- ▶ If your child has a tendency to rush through homework just to get it done, insist that you review all completed homework together.

How you approach the subject of homework says a great deal about the value you place on education. Make sure your child knows that you consider homework to be very important!



VIDEO

To review, watch this quick video!

Expect Regular Attendance

Parents Make the Difference

Regular attendance puts students of all ages on the road to success. However, regular attendance in elementary school is especially crucial.

Elementary children are absorbing new knowledge and developing new skills every day. Missing just a few days of school can put a student behind.



Why Attendance Matters

Academic skills. Missing two days per month negatively impacts a student's academic performance and test scores.

Social growth. At school, students make friends, learn to interact with others, and build relationships with adults outside their family.

Literacy skills. Frequent absences in elementary school have been shown to significantly affect a student's reading skills.

Routine and structure. Going to school every day provides consistency, and gives children a sense of security.

Supporting Good Attendance

Children need to understand that unless they are ill, they should be in school every day. Here are some tips for ensuring that your child has the best attendance possible.

Develop routines.

Help your child get everything they need for school ready the night before. Set out clothes, shoes, socks, coat, and backpack.

Also, make sure that your child goes to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep—and is up in time to have a good breakfast and get to school on time.

Get support.

If you have difficulty getting your child to and from school, or if your child doesn't seem to want to go to school for any reason, talk to their teacher, school counselor, or an administrator. Work together to resolve whatever issue is having a negative impact on your child's attendance.

Be informed.

Know bus pick-up times, parent drop-off times, and school bell times. Determine what time your child needs to be out the door to get to school on time.

Bus pick-up time _____

Parent drop-off time _____

School bell time _____

Time to be out the door _____



VIDEO

For more on the importance of attendance, watch this video.

Be an Involved Parent

Parents Make the Difference

Studies show that children whose parents are engaged in their education have higher grades, better behavior, and improved social skills. Here are ten ways you can be a more involved parent.



Be Engaged and Involved

1. Show interest in school. Regularly ask your child about school and about what they are learning. *"Tell me something you learned in school today."*

2. Prioritize attendance. Regular attendance is crucial for success in elementary school. Make sure your child is in school every day.

3. Get to know your child's teachers. Attend open houses and parent-teacher conferences, and talk to your child's teachers about any questions or concerns you have.

4. Stay informed. Read school newsletters and regularly check the school's website for district and school news, upcoming events, and important notices.

5. Make homework a priority.

How you approach the subject of homework says a great deal about the value you place on education. Your child needs to know that you consider homework to be very important.

6. Be there to help.

Your child will inevitably become frustrated with or stuck on an assignment. Let them do as much as they can on their own, but make sure they know you're available to help.

7. Volunteer.

Help in classrooms, join parent groups, and assist with after-school events. Your child will enjoy seeing you at school.

8. Set routines.

Have a nighttime routine that includes getting everything ready for the next day, and a morning routine that includes a good breakfast and getting to school on time.

9. Read together.

Fostering a love of reading is one of the most important ways you can help your child succeed in school. Visit the library often, and make reading together a part of your daily routine.

10. Embrace learning opportunities.

Take advantage of everyday opportunities to teach your child something new. When it storms, talk about how lightning forms. Take walks and discuss the things you see. And if you don't know something, look it up together.

*For additional parenting tips,
watch this short video.*

