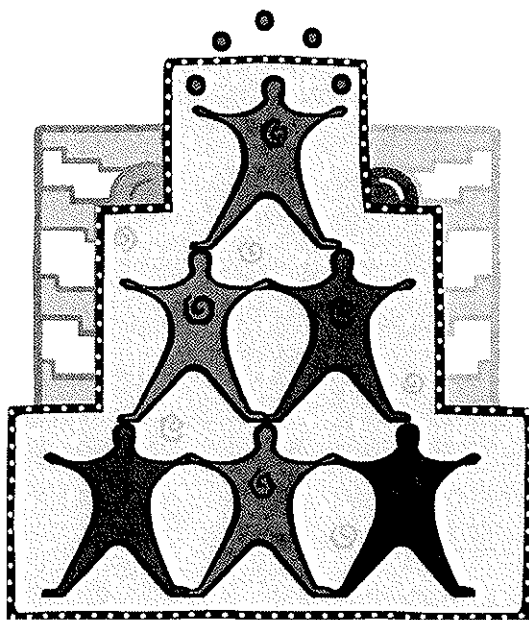


What Can Title I Do for My Child?

Okolona Municipal Separate School District

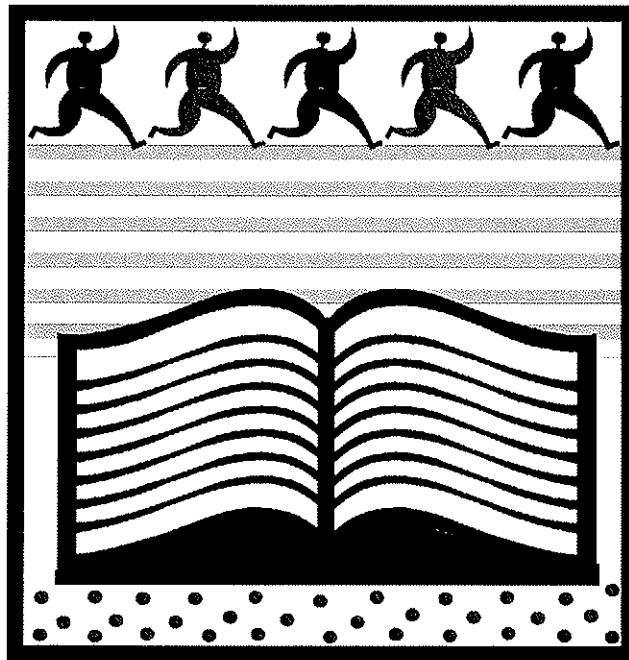


by
Dr. Loretta Shird and Dorothy Buchanan

This handbook was compiled in conjunction with the Parent Advisory Committee.

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OKOLONA MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION EMPLOYER AND WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE OR HANDICAP IN ITS ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS OR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AS REQUIRED BY TITLE VI, TITLE IX AND SECTION 504.

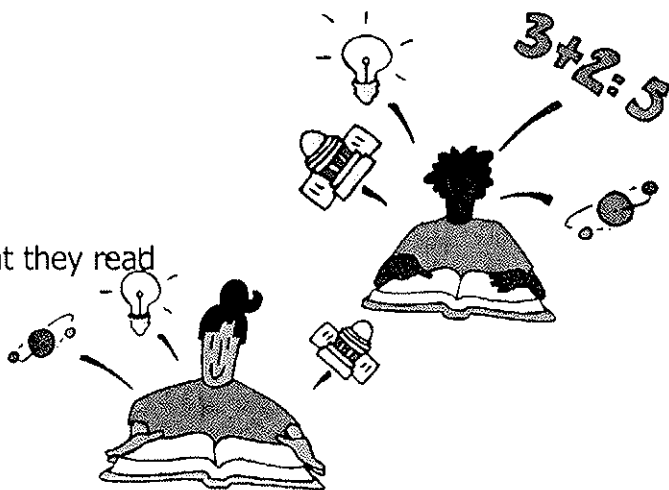
What is Title I? How Can It Help My Child?

Title I

Title I is the name for a government program that gives additional money to qualifying schools. These schools use Title I money to give extra help to students who need it. In the Okolona Municipal Separate School District (OMSSD), students are eligible to receive Title I help in grades K-12.

Sometimes children need assistance to meet the standards Mississippi has set for all children. This includes children who:

- Have trouble reading
- Read below their grade level
- Have trouble understanding what they read
- Have difficulty with math



What help does Title I provide?

Either you or your child's teacher might notice that your child needs extra help in one or more academic areas. Extra help includes:

- Additional teachers to work with very small groups or one-on-one
- Additional training for staff
- Extra time for instruction
- A variety of teaching methods and materials
- Smaller classes



How can I help Title I succeed?

Parental involvement is one of the most important elements for Title I success. As a parent, you are part of the Title I team. You may help your child succeed by:

- Working with your child at home
- Working at the school as a teacher's assistant or volunteer
- OMSSD's Title I program also needs your input to:

Determine program goals

Plan and carry out programs

Evaluate programs

Title I meetings are a great time to learn more about Title I, give input and connect with other parents, teachers and administrators.

District Parent Advisory Committee Meetings are held two times a year. The following dates have been established for these meetings:

- October 25
- April 24

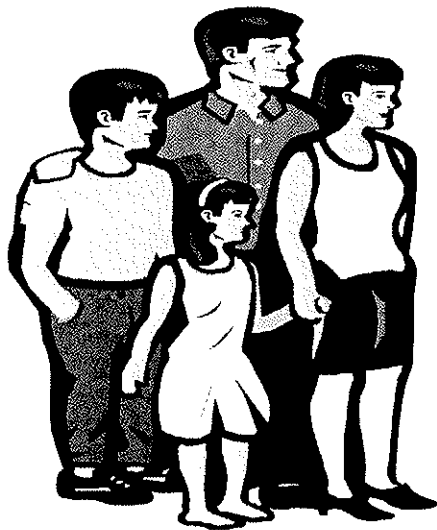
All meetings will be held at noon at the Okolona Municipal Separate Parent Center. Please contact the District Office at 662.447-2353 if you wish to become involved.

Building PTO meetings are also a great place to gain information and to contribute as a member of the Title I team!

How Can I Help My Child?

You know your child best. It's up to you to:

- Share information about your child's interests and abilities with teachers.
- Update your child's teacher and school about changes at home or in your child's health.
- Notice whether your child's needs are being met in school.
- Learn about the Title I program and what it has to offer your child.
- Monitor your child's progress by reviewing tests, report cards, and other assessments. Ask teachers for more information on his or her progress toward grade level goals.
- Ask to see progress reports on your child's school to make sure it is reaching goals for improvement (see progress reports in the Glossary for a list of reports and where to find them).
- Speak up if you have concerns or notice any problems. (Please don't criticize the school, teachers, or principal in front of your child.)



Here are some helpful hints about how you and OMSSD can work together to create a successful learning environment for your child.

- Know your child's school
- Read newsletters and notices.
- Get to know your child's teachers. Attend parent teacher conferences.
- Request additional meetings with the classroom teacher if you need them.
- Consider sending the teacher a note in advance with the topics you wish to cover.
- Attend school events such as open houses, family activity nights, science fairs, concerts and plays.
- Visit the classroom during the day. Call to make arrangements in advance.
- Be a part of the school Parent-Teacher-Organization. Attend meetings if possible. Find out who your PTO president is, and give that person a call to find out what is going on. Become an active PTO volunteer.
- Share life-long learning experiences
- Let your child see you read newspapers, magazines or books. Write letters, grocery lists or a diary.
- Visit your public library together. Help your child pick out books to read just for fun.
- Limit TV time and computer games to 1 or 2 hours a day.

Show interest in your child's education

Show an interest in your child's school day. Go through your child's backpack every day. Ask questions and be specific about what the class is studying.

Ask to see schoolwork, art projects, etc. Don't criticize the work or compare it to another child's - just show your interest. Talk about school in a positive way.

Praise effort and improvement - no matter how small it may seem to you. Don't focus on grades too much.

Build good study habits

Agree on a time for homework. If your child has no homework on a given day, have him or her use the time to review or read for pleasure.

Arrange a quiet place for study that provides:

- A large, clear work surface (the kitchen or dining table is good)
- A comfortable chair
- Plenty of light
- Materials needed such as pencils, crayons, ruler, dictionary

Be ready to help, but don't do the work yourself. Be patient. A child may make the same mistake many times before he or she catches on.

Show respect for study by not watching TV or talking with friends while your child is working.

Allow breaks for phone calls, snacks or just moving around. Suggest your child divide homework into sections, and take a break between each one.

Keep in mind...

You influence your child's education more than any teacher or school. Your positive involvement can boost your child's achievement! By taking an active role in Title I, you'll show your child:

- How important he or she is to you
- How important education is to you
- That you and the school are a team.

Parent involvement pays off...

Decades of research show that when parents are involved in their children's education, students have:

- Higher grades, test scores and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation and better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased drug and alcohol use
- Fewer instances of violent behavior
- A greater chance of going on to college and other secondary education



Source: National PTA (www.pta.org/parentinvolvement)

The Title I funding process

Each year, the US Federal Government gives money to Mississippi and other states for Title I. To get these funds, Mississippi must submit a plan. The plan describes:

- What all children are expected to know and be able to do
- The performance standards that all children are expected to meet
- Ways to measure how well students are meeting performance standards

Mississippi distributes its Title I money to qualifying school districts like ours. OMSSD identifies the public schools in our district that are eligible for Title I money. OMSSD provides Title I resources, like teachers and programs, to those schools.

In OMSSD public schools, Title I is a school-wide program. This means that all students may be served. The goal of our school-wide programs is to combine Title I funds with other federal, state, and local funds to improve student education in the schools.

In each school, parents, teachers, administrators, and other school staff work together to:

- Identify students who most need learning help
- Set goals for each student's improvement
- Measure each student's progress by using the standards from Mississippi's Title I plan.
- Develop programs that add to regular classroom instruction
- Involve parents in all aspects of the program

For More Information: Resource List

What or Who	How it can help you
Parent-School Compact	This document is in the back of your child's Student Handbook. It states the goals and responsibilities of both parents and schools.
Parental Involvement Policy	This document helps parents understand and take part in the school's efforts. This document can be found at the back of this handbook and in the elementary and high student handbooks.
State performance standards (AYP)	OMSSD informs parents by issuing a report every year on each school's progress toward its goals. This information can be found on the district website: okolona.k12.ms.us and the state website: mde.k12.ms.us
Classroom and Title I teachers, school counselors, and assistants	School staff can answer your questions and discuss concerns about your child's needs.
Principal	The building principal can provide information about programs, rules, and staffing at your child's school.
Conservator's office	This office can answer questions about OMSSD school board policies and budgets.
District Federal Programs Coordinator	The District Federal Programs Coordinator directs the local programs. Contact Number: 662.447-2353

Glossary

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Under NCLB, all states are required to develop and implement a single statewide accountability system that will ensure all public schools make progress toward the federal goal that all students perform at or above the proficient leveling Reading and Mathematics by 2014.

Local Education Agency (LEA)

Each school district that receives Title I funding is an LEA.

Mississippi Curriculum Test 2nd Edition (MCT2)

The annual Mississippi Curriculum Test 2nd Edition (MCT 2) is a standards based criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards.

Progress reports

Individual student scores, provided only to their respective schools, can be used to assist teachers in identifying students who may be in need of additional educational opportunities, and school scores provide information to schools and districts for curriculum and instruction improvement discussions and planning.

State Division of Federal Programs

The Mississippi Department of Education agency that distributes federal funds to school districts is known as the Office of Innovative Support. Sometimes this agency is also called the State Educational Agency (SEA).

Title I

Title I is an abbreviation for Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Title I funding

Title I funding is based on a formula which includes the number of low-income families who live in a school district. Because more than 40 percent of the children in OMSSD from low-income families, Title I is a school-wide program in our district.

The purpose of the schoolwide program in the Okolona Municipal Separate School District is to improve academic achievement throughout the Title I schools so that all students demonstrate proficiency related to the State's academic content and achievement standards, particularly those students furthest away from demonstration proficiency. The achievement increase is to result from improving the entire educational program of the school. A school is eligible to implement a schoolwide program if at least 40 percent of the enrolled students are economically deprived. Eligibility is determined by the percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunches enrolled in the building based on the March (preceding year) count.

In buildings with less than 40% poverty, programs are designed to help specific children and are targeted assisted programs.



Contact Information:

District Federal Programs Coordinator: Dr. Loretta Shird	662.447-2353
Administrative Assistant: Annie Randle	662.447-5406
Parent Center Coordinator: Dorothy Buchanan	662.447.5437
District Test Coordinator: Zawartha Triplett	662.447-2362
Response to Intervention Coordinators: Dr. Gregory Stephens Barry Woods	
Okolona Elementary School Principal: Dr. Gregory Stephens	662.447-5406
Literacy Coach: Dr. Onie Booker-Moore	662.447-9918
Okolona High School Principal: Barry Woods	662.447-2362