

Dear Parents:

You have probably heard about Title I in schools, either when you were a student or now as a parent. What you may not know is how Title I has changed over the years and how we use our Title I funding at Plains Schools to help all students. Plains Public School is deemed a “schoolwide” Title I school. This means that any and all students can receive extra support. Although our emphasis is still concentrated on math and reading, we are allowed to give support in all subject matters in an effort to improve academic skills. Our goal for Title I is to ensure that students receive assistance for a concept or skill that they may be currently struggling in. The length of time spent receiving the service will depend on the measured growth of each student.

In the past, as you may remember schools were deemed “targeted assistance” schools. This meant that there was a process in which students were chosen for Title I. For instance, Title I staff would look at student scores and teacher referrals to make a list of students who would receive assistance. The Title I teacher and aides would only work with those students on the list. Now we have the freedom to work with anyone on anything. We may have classroom teachers work with the students who are deemed “low” in skills and let the aides work with the higher students. We also have the freedom to have students come and go to academic support groups depending on the progress they are making. In a nutshell, it allows us to use Title I staffing and funding to its’ maximum potential.

Throughout the year, if we find that a student is not reaching their potential based on current grades and teacher feedback, we then provide Title I services. Students who are receiving this assistance are monitored continually through observation and grade reports. Once a student shows enough growth we then can make a decision on putting them into a higher level. Once we feel that the student is meeting his/her academic potential, they will no longer require the extra service.

One of the challenges of being a schoolwide program as opposed to a targeted assistance program is how we communicate with parents. The targeted assistance plan had the aforementioned set list which made contacting parents easier. The schoolwide program is more fluid so therefore it is a little more difficult to let parents know who is entering or exiting the program. Our plan is to inform parents once they begin receiving Title I services. Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of teachers who are providing Title I services at Plains School.

Parental involvement is an important component of our program and your input is encouraged and appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 826-8600. Thanks for your support of Plains Junior High & High School.

Sincerely,

Kevin Meredith
7-12 Principal

Jim Holland
K-6 Principal

