
2022-2023

Annual Title I Meeting

John Wood Elementary School

September 16, 2022

Mrs. Igras, Principal; Miss Wiley, Title I

8/30/2022



Why are we here?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each Title I school hold an annual meeting of Title I families in order to:
 - inform you of your school's participation in Title I,
 - explain the requirements of Title I
 - explain your rights as parents and family members to be involved.

What will I learn?

- What is a Title I school?
- What are my rights?
- What can Title I funds be used for?
- How does our school use Title I funds?
- What is the SIP?
- What are our schoolwide program goals?
- What curriculum does our school use?
- What tests will my child be taking?
- What is the Family Engagement Policy?
- What is the School-Parent Compact?
- How can I be involved?
- What activities can I do at home?
- Who can I contact for help?
- What is FACES?

What is a Title I school?

- Title I was passed in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.
- Title I schools receive extra funding (Title I dollars) from the federal government. These dollars are used to:
 - identify students experiencing academic difficulties and provide assistance to help these students;
 - purchase additional staff, programs, materials, and/or supplies; and
 - conduct parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities.

What are my rights?

- The families of Title I students have a right, by law, to:
 - be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level;
 - be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests
 - request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child. Information on how to request qualifications can be found on the district Title I page <https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/Administration2/title1>
 - request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your child.

What can Title I funds be used for?

- In general, Title I funds may be used for:
 - smaller class sizes,
 - additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
 - additional training for school staff,
 - extra time for instruction (before and/or after school, summer programs),
 - parent and family engagement activities, and/or
 - a variety of supplemental teaching materials, equipment, and technology.

How does our school use Title I funds?

- We developed a **Schoolwide Program**, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:
 - Supplemental staff that can provide more small group learning settings for students
 - Programs/Materials/Supplies for teachers and students to use to help facilitate growth
 - Please note that the district DOES offer supports in these areas, using ESSER stimulus funds
 - Additional teachers and paraprofessionals,
 - Additional training for school staff
 - Extra time for instruction (before and/or after school, summer programs)

What is the SIP?

- The SIP is the School Improvement Plan. It includes:
 - the identification of the school planning team and how they will be engaged in the planning process;
 - a needs assessment and summary of academic and non-academic data;
 - prioritized goals, strategies, and action steps to help address the academic and non-academic needs of students;
 - teacher and staff professional development needs; and
 - budgets and the coordination of resources.
- You, as a Title I family member, have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.
- Our school improvement plan can be found here:
<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/Content2/426> (all Merrillville schools)

<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/userfiles/3/my%20files/sip%202022%202023/wood%202022-2023%20sip%20.pdf?id=9577> (John Wood)

What are our schoolwide program goals?

- The goals from our Schoolwide Learning Program (SIP) are:
 - 70% at or above grade level in ELA in the spring
 - 60% at or above grade level in Math in the spring
 - 97% of students attending school daily, on time
 - 15% less students receiving ISS/OSS

- The data from last spring placed us at:
 - 55.4% at or above grade level in ELA
 - 42% at or above grade level in Math
 - 92.8% of students attended school daily, on time
 - 19% of student population received ISS/OSS

What curriculum does our school use?

- The Indiana Academic Standards provide a common set of expectations for what students will know and be able to do at the end of a grade for each subject area.
- Indiana's Academic Standards form the framework for everything taught at John Wood Elementary.
- The school's curriculum maps can be found on the Curriculum and Instruction page <https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/Administration2/10>
- For more information about Indiana's Academic Standards, see: <https://www.in.gov/doe/students/indiana-academic-standards/>

What tests will my child be taking?

- SAVVAS Reading Baseline, SAVVAS Math readiness, iReady Reading Diagnostic, iReady Math Diagnostic, Dibels, Fountas and Pinnell running records, 3rd grade will take the IREAD, 3rd and 4th grade will take the ILEARN
- These tests will rank students as above grade level, at grade level, or below grade level, based on their scores
- Most testing takes place three times over a few weeks in the fall, winter, and spring; the IREAD and ILEARN are done in the spring

Family engagement

- We plan to use parent and family engagement funding funds for:
 - Family Engagement Meeting and Events
 - Fall Family Event (today)
 - Mid-Year Family Event (date TBD)
 - Spring Family Event (date TBD)

 - Materials/Supplies
 - Family Library Resources (available all year)
 - Kindergarten Welcome Packets
 - Reading resources and materials for use with students
 - Math resources and materials for use with students

What is a Family Engagement Policy?

- These plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA. Components include:
 - how parents and families can be involved in decision-making and activities;
 - how parent and family engagement funds are being used;
 - how information and training will be provided to families; and
 - how the school will build capacity in families and staff for strong parent and family engagement.
- The school and district Family Engagement Policy are shared through the annual online Verification of Information (VOI) process and can also be found here:
<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/Administration2/title1>
- You, as a Title I family member, have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.

What is a School-Family Compact?

- A school-family compact is a written commitment that outlines how the entire school community – teachers, families, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement.
- The compact describes how the school will:
 - provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
 - hold parent-teacher conferences
 - provide parents with reports on their child’s progress;
 - provide parents reasonable access to staff.
 - provide parents opportunities to volunteer; and
 - ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and staff, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.
- The Compact is shared through the annual online Verification of Information (VOI) process and can also be found here: <https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/Administration2/title1>
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.

How can I be involved?

- We need you! Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor.
- To get involved with the School improvement plan, reach out to the building principal.
- To get involved with the review of family documents (Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact), join us at our spring family event.

How can I be involved?

- encouraging attendance;
- monitoring grades and schoolwork on Skyward
<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisadll/WService=wsedumerrillvillein/seplog01.w> ;
- attending family events and meetings;
- observing or volunteering in classrooms;
- joining family groups and committees (e.g., PTO, advisory councils, etc.):
 - John Wood PTO meetings are held every first Thursday of the month!
 - (Next meeting: October 6th at 6pm)
- reading school/classroom newsletters or websites

Concern Procedures

- Written form to be completed by any individual or organization in the event that a federal or state law has been broken.
- Concerns directed first to teaching staff, then principal, then district
- [Form Link](#)

What activities can I do at home to help my child?

- Read, read, read- create a routine to read at home every night (maybe in a special reading spot or with a partner- you, a sibling, a pet, stuffed animal, etc.)
- After reading, ask your child questions about what he/she read to gauge comprehension and understanding of the text
- Set learning goals with your child for the school year, this can be about growth or overall grades he/she wishes to obtain
- Be enthusiastic about reading and your child's progress, feeling supported and celebrated will generate the desire to continue to grow
- Allow your child time to write- some children like journal writing, some comic strips, others enjoy writing stories- but allow them time to use their skills from what they are reading in their own writing
- Stay involved in their school work- ask questions, review incorrect answers and why they were incorrect, continue to work with them on the skills they are learning in the classroom, and stay supportive

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at: (219) 650-5305
- To reach the principal, Sharon Igras, call: (219) 650-5305 ext. 5450
- To reach the Title I teacher, Alyssa Wiley, call: (219) 650-5305 ext. 6543
- To reach our FACES (Family and Community Engagement Specialist), Rebecca Hehr, call: (219) 650-5305 ext. 6551
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at: <https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/8/staff>

FACES

- Rebecca Hehr, FACES (Family and Community Engagement Specialist)
 - acts as a liaison between the school and the families;
 - first line of communication with families when issues arise;
 - can offer community resources or connect families with a school Social Worker;
 - assists the PTO with planning family engagement events and activities;
 - plans and attends events in the community to represent and support the school;
 - monitors attendance and assists with Truancy Court.

Questions and Survey

Your input is important! If you could please complete our survey, it will help us improve our school's family involvement activities.

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...

THANK YOU!