

West Side Elementary School

Robert Mountjoy, Principal

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Virtual

Annual Meeting

Welcome parents and community members! We are glad to welcome you to our school's Title I Annual Parent Meeting. We will be reviewing and discussing our school's Title I Program. We will cover the following items that are important to you as parents:

What is a Title I School?

Title I of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides financial assistance to state and local educational agencies to meet the needs of at-risk children. The goals of Title I is to provide instructional services and activities which support students in meeting the state's challenging performance standards.

WSE Participates in a Title I Schoolwide Program

This means that all students receive the benefits of being a Title I school. Title I schools usually offer:



- Smaller classes or special instructional spaces.
- Additional teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Opportunities for professional development for school staff.
- A variety of supplementary teaching methods.

- An individualized program for students
- Additional teaching materials which supplement their regular instruction.
- Technology.
- Parent & Family engagement in children's education.

How do we use our Title I money at WSE?

- Provide learning materials through technology resources.
- Provide parent & family engagement activities & services.
- Employ the services of an Academic Coach and reading & math interventionists.
- Fund a full-time Parent Involvement Coordinator and maintain a Family Resource Center.



What are our school's Title I schoolwide requirements?

The purpose of school wide Title I programs is to improve the entire educational program in a school. This should result in improving the academic achievement of all students, particularly the lowest achieving students.

The purposes of the Georgia Student Assessment Program are to measure student achievement relative to the state-mandated content standards, to identify students failing to achieve mastery

of content, to provide teachers with diagnostic information, and to assist school systems in identifying strengths and weaknesses in order to establish priorities in planning educational programs.

The assessment program includes customized criterion- referenced tests at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Georgia Milestones relies on the Georgia Student Growth Model (GSGM) initiative designed to provide students, parents, educators, and the public with important information on student progress. Academic achievement only tells part of the story. The addition of student growth tells a more complete story about the academic performance of students. Now we not only know where students end up, but also know how much progress they made to get there. This is an exciting time for students and their parents!

Does my child's teacher meet professional qualifications?

All teachers at West Side Elementary are highly qualified in the content area they are teaching.

As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined by ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching.
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived.
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.
- You may also ask whether your child received help from a paraprofessional, and information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.



What is required by law for Parent & Family Engagement?

School systems must ensure that strong strategies are in place to:

- Build capacity in parents as partners.
- Share and support parents in attaining high school achievement.

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:

- (a) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (b) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's

Education.

- (c) Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, when appropriate, in decision-making as well as being a part of the advisory committees to assist in the education of their children.
- (d) Policies that are jointly developed with parents' guide what we do in parent & family engagement. Check out the Catoosa County Parent & Family Engagement Policy and the West Side Elementary Parent & Family Engagement Policy. We welcome your recommendations on these policies at any time.
- (e) Each Title I school jointly develops a family-school compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

What are our school wide goals?

- Increase the percentage of students who score in the developing learner or better categories in ELA by three percentage points on the GA Milestones.
- Increase the percentage of students who meet the grade level stretch band (Lexile score) by three percentage points on the GA Milestones.

What programs/supports are in place to help my child?

- Reading and Math interventionist.
- Computer and technology software to support reading and math instruction.
- Student progress will be monitored throughout the school year. Interventions will be provided for students who do not master all the elements of the standard during the school day and after school

What about Curriculum and Tests?

Catoosa County Schools use the state adopted standards as the basis of curriculum. Currently, the adopted curriculum is the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). These standards provide clear expectations for instruction, assessment, and student work. Teachers are encouraged to use instructional frameworks which include an opening, work session, and closing for delivery of instruction. Pacing guides and curriculum units called “frameworks” are some of the resources used to support the implementation of the Georgia Standards of Excellence. These standards provide a consistent framework to prepare students for success in college and/or the 21st century workplace. Resources can be found online at www.georgiastandards.org and the Family Resource Room.

Students in grades three through twelve take the Georgia Milestones assessment. Instruction is centered on the Georgia Standards of Excellence. At the Elementary level, third and fourth grade students take ELA and Math. Fifth grade students take ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Students will also take a reading and math benchmark test three (3) times a year using the MAP assessment program for first through fifth grade students, and GKIDS for kindergarten students.

How do parents lodge complaints?

Parents should bring school complaints to our principal, Robert Mountjoy. He can be contacted by phone at (706)866-9211 or by email at rmountjoy@catoosa.k12.ga.us.

Parents should bring Title I complaints to Gina Haynes, Catoosa County Schools Title I Coordinator. She may be contacted at (706)965-2297 or ghaynes@catoosa.k12.ga.us.

How responsive will the school be to my questions when staff is contacted?

We welcome parent questions and comments! We want to be sure you leave the meeting informed about the Title I program as well as the opportunities the school provides to get involved.

Parents are always welcome to contact their child's teacher or administrators through the school website (www.wse.catoosa.k12.ga.us), email, phone calls, and written notes.



Closing and Evaluation

Tonight there is a Title I table available with additional Title I handouts you may like to pick up. These include information about our Title I policies, How to Communicate with Your Child's Teacher, and Student Testing in Georgia.

We would also like for you to take a moment to evaluate the meeting tonight. You may return it to Stephanie Bower, or to the school office anytime.