

# Sarasota County School District

## Title I Programs



## Educating Our Children

### 2014-2015

Our mission is to prepare students to achieve the highest learning standards by engaging a high quality staff, involved parents and a supportive community.

## **District Report Card**

The state of Florida has rated Sarasota County an “A” district, one of only 5 “A” districts out of 67 districts statewide to earn an A grade every year since the State began grading districts in 2004. 29 of the district’s 40 elementary, middle and charter schools received “A” or “B” grades for the school year 2013-2014. Compared to the state, Sarasota County 2014 reading proficiency rates are 9 to 14 percentage points higher across grade levels.

High school grades released in December showed that three of the eight high schools in the Sarasota County School District received an A grade. The remaining five all received B grades.

## **Title I Schools and School Grade for 2013-14:**

### **Elementary**

Alta Vista	A
Atwater	C
Brentwood	B
Cranberry	A
Emma E. Booker	C
Glenallen	C
Gocio	C
Lamarque	C
Toledo Blade	B
Tuttle	A
Wilkinson	C

### **Middle School**

Booker Middle	C
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### **Alternative Middle/High School**

Triad	Not Graded
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### **Charter School**

Suncoast School of Innovative Studies	C
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## **What Is Title I?**

Title I is a federally funded program designed to address the academic needs of students and to assist them in meeting the state's high standards, particularly in the areas of reading, writing, science and mathematics. The Sarasota County School District receives funds based upon the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

## **What Is A Title I School?**

Title I schools are determined by the percentage of students at each school who are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Parents may find one or more of the following in a Title I school:

- Intervention classes providing intensive assistance in reading and math
- Additional resource teachers and assistants who are highly qualified
- Additional training for school staff
- A variety of teaching methods and materials
- Special learning events
- Training for families
- After-school tutoring

Title I schools offer training to support parents in the education of their child. Areas of training may include:

- Academic enrichment in reading, writing, math and science
- Literacy learning styles
- Behavioral management
- Technology



## **What Is Required Of The School?**

Title I schools will provide parents of participating children with:

- timely information about Title I programs;
- a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school;
- forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and
- if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and to respond to any such suggestions as soon as possible.

**[No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1118-c (4)]**

## **What does all of this mean?**

As a parent, you have a voice in your child's education.

## What is “Parents-Right-to-Know?”

Federal law requires that the Sarasota County School District notify parents of all children in Title I schools of their rights to receive timely information on the professional qualification of their child’s teacher. Parents may request information about the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teacher including, at a minimum, the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria has been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certificate or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

[No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) Section 1111 (h) (6) (A)]

### What This Means

For all Title I schools, parents have the right to ask the school, and the school has the responsibility to let parents know about the qualifications of their child’s teacher. Please contact your school, who will respond in writing within a week.

### Just So You Know

All paraprofessionals at Sarasota County School District Title I schools meet the state requirements for highly qualified. 100 percent of all Title I teachers meet state requirements for highly qualified. The School District will continue to have 100 percent of Title I teachers highly qualified.

### For More Information about Your School

Obtain a copy of your SPAR (School Public Accountability Report) at:

<http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm>

## What Is Expected Of Parents?

Each elementary school receiving funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must develop a written *Student-Parent-School Compact jointly with parents* for all children participating in Title I Part A activities, services, and programs. This **Compact** is part of the school’s written Parental Involvement Plan developed by the school **and parents** under section 1118 (b) of the ESEA. The **Compact** must outline 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. Title I schools must have one parent contact (via written signature, phone call or face-to-face meeting) for each student stating that the student, parent and school will meet the responsibilities of the *Student-Parent-School Compact*.

## **Parent Involvement Makes A Difference**

Research shows that students benefit from parent involvement through:

- higher grades and test scores,
- better attendance and more completed homework,
- a more positive attitude and better behavior, and
- a higher promotion rate.

When children, parents, and educators work as a team, students succeed. There are many opportunities for parents to be involved throughout the school year. Please contact your child's school to find out what you can do. Your help at home will make a difference in the quality of the education of your child.

## **How Can Parents Be Involved?**

**There are many levels of parent involvement. Choose one or more that works best for you:**

- Attend the annual parent meeting, open house, orientation and other programs at your school.
- Meet your child's teacher. Parents are requested to attend at least one parent-teacher conference during the school year.
- Volunteer your time to help design and implement the school's Title I Program and **Parental Involvement Plan**.
- Participate in your child's education by working with the teacher and attending training workshops to learn how to help your child be successful in school.
- Read the **Student-Parent-School Compact** carefully. The **Compact** outlines expectations for the child, the parent and the school.
- Make suggestions and complete surveys to help the school improve.

## **How Can Parents Help Their Child?**

- Make sure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- Equip your child with necessary school supplies.
- Provide the school with your current contact information.
- Encourage positive school feelings.
- Communicate and maintain regular contact with your child's teachers.
- Talk to your child about school activities every day.
- Insist that all homework assignments be completed.
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted place to study.
- Support the school in developing self-discipline in your child.
- Encourage your child to read, read to your child, and let your child see you read.
- Sign and return all papers requested by the school.
- Visit your child's classroom.
- Volunteer as often as possible in needed areas at the school.
- Attend PTA/PTO meetings, parent-teacher conferences and other school events.
- Become involved in planning school events and other decision-making activities.
- Attend trainings and workshops.

### **Additional Suggestions**

- Obtain a library card for your child.
- Communicate with the people who work closely with your child.
- Learn the names of key school personnel and their job responsibilities. It may be helpful to talk with them during the school year about your child.
- Read the school **Parent Involvement Policy, Compact**, newsletters and announcements.
- Become part of a parent support group or start one.
- Monitor your child's use of the computer and video games to ensure they are used wisely.

### **OTHER TITLE I SERVICES**

**Private Schools** - Students attending private schools are eligible for Title I services if they reside within the boundaries of a public Title I school, qualify for Free or Reduced lunch and show academic need. Title I provides services to support the educational needs of these identified students by supplementing the educational services provided by the private school. Title I services for private school students must be developed in consultation with the Title I office and private school officials.

**ESOL and Migrant Education Programs - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** instruction is provided to English Language Learner (ELL) students based on their level of English language proficiency. The **Migrant Education Program** strives to ensure that the educational needs of migratory children and out of school youth are identified and addressed at school, home and in the community by increasing parent involvement and student supplemental services. Migrant parents and out of school youth may work in agriculture, dairy, livestock, fishing, packing, or processing vegetables. The Sarasota County School District recognizes the linguistic and cultural diversity of its students and encourages all students to preserve their native cultures while developing an awareness of the U.S. culture. Our goal is to provide English Language Learners (ELL) and migrant students opportunities to achieve the state and district standards for all academic subject areas, so that students graduate or receive a GED.

**ESOL and Migrant Parent Outreach** - The mission of the **ESOL Parent Involvement Program** is to increase the academic achievement of English Language Learners (ELL) by assisting parents to become actively involved -- at home and school -- in the education of their children and by providing assistance for families' physical, emotional, educational, and socio-economic needs. Both programs offer support services for students and parents by facilitating:

- Active and ongoing parent involvement in the education of students
- Access to school, home and community educational resources, services and programs to improve academic achievement
- Bridges of communication between home, school and district
- School and district Parent Council meetings, parent-teacher conferences and parenting workshops
- Access to community services and resources for the entire family

# Sarasota County School District Parental Involvement Plan Summary

2014-2015

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school district that receives federal Title I, Part A funds must work with parents to create a district Parent Involvement Plan.

The following information is a summary of the District Parent Involvement Plan:

1. Each Title I school must have a Parent Involvement Plan which is reviewed at the district level.
2. The District and schools will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the planning, development and approval of the Parent Involvement Plan and School Improvement Plan.
3. The District and schools will work with parents to identify barriers, which hinder participation in parent involvement activities and will provide a support mechanism to overcome those barriers.
4. The District will provide district-wide activities, technical assistance and support for Parent Involvement at Title I schools to build strong parental involvement and will support a partnership among schools, parents and the community.
5. The District will integrate Title I Parent Involvement strategies with other federally funded programs.
6. The District and schools will evaluate the effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Plan with an annual parent survey.
7. With parent input, Title I Part A federal funds will be used to support parent involvement activities in the schools.
8. The District and schools will provide activities for all parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and migratory children.
9. The District will distribute a Title I Brochure to assist the parents in understanding Title I resources.
10. The District and schools will provide Parent Involvement training for school staff including the four elements of Parent Involvement.
11. The District will partner with community agencies to provide opportunities for parent training sessions on a range of topics at community-organized events.

A complete copy of the District Parental Involvement Plan is in your school's Parental Involvement Center, the Public Libraries, and some local churches and is posted on the District's website, <http://sarasotacountyschools.net/departments/pupilsupportservices/default.aspx?id=45172>

You may request a copy of the complete Plan by calling 927-9000 ext. 34061. A copy will be mailed to you.

## Questions and Information Regarding Title I Programs

You may contact:

Jane Mahler, Supervisor  
*Office of State and Federal Projects*  
Phone: 941-927-9000 (ext) 34061 Fax: 941-927-4086  
Jane.Mahler@sarasotacountyschools.net

### District Website Links of Interest to Parents:

#### District Title I 2014-15 Parent Involvement Plan:

<http://sarasotacountyschools.net/departments/pupilsupportservices/default.aspx?id=45172>

#### Sarasota County School District

##### Superintendent of Schools

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**Purchased with Title I Funds – Sarasota County School District**