

Title 1 Handbook 2017-2018

Easton Public Schools

Easton, Massachusetts

What Is Title 1?

It's the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools. The goal of Title 1 is to have a high-quality education for every child, so the program provides extra help to students who need it most. These are children who are the furthest from meeting the standards the state has set for all children.

The program serves millions of children in elementary and secondary schools each year. Most school districts participate. Title 1 also serves children who attend parochial and private schools. These services may be provided at a public school (this includes charter schools), or at the private or parochial school (under certain conditions).

Why Should I Know About Title 1?

It can provide valuable resources for your child. Every child is eligible based on need(s). Title 1 can help:

- students do better in school and feel better about themselves.
- parents better understand their children and their needs.
- parents have more say about their children's education.

How Title 1 Works

The U. S. Government provides funding to states each year for Title 1. To receive funds, each state must submit a plan describing:

- what all children are expected to know and be able to do.
- the high quality standards of performance that all children are expected to meet.
- ways to measure progress.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sends the money to school districts based on the number of low-income families.

Low-income is usually determined by the number of children who receive free or reduced price lunch. However, low income is NOT a consideration in which children are allowed to access services.

The Easton Public Schools District identifies eligible schools (based, in part, on low-income rates) and provides Title 1 resources to those schools.

The Title 1 School works to:

- identify students most in need of educational help (students do not have to be from low-income families to receive help).
- set student goals for improvement.
- measure student progress, using standards set forth in the state's Title 1 plan (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System – MCAS).
- develop programs that add to regular classroom instruction.
- involve parents in all aspects of the program.

How Are Students Chosen To Be In The Title 1 Program?

A student's placement in the Title 1 Program is based on MCAS scores, formal and informal assessments, teacher recommendations and referrals to our Intervention Team. The Intervention Team is made up of content area experts in mathematics and reading.

The Title 1 School's Title 1 Program is revised each year by administrators, teachers and parents. School Improvement Plans are written to include Title 1 goals.

Title 1 Programs generally offer:

- additional teachers and paraprofessionals.
- additional training for school staff.
- extra time for instruction.
- a variety of teaching methods and materials.
- collaboration between Title 1 staff and a school's faculty.

Parents' Right to Know

Parents may request, and the district will provide in a timely fashion, information regarding the professional qualifications (certification, degrees) of their child's classroom teachers as well as any other service provider.

Please contact the School Assistant Principal, Principal, or Assistant Superintendent for this information.

Parent Involvement Statement

- Parents are asked to participate in the development and implementation of the Title 1 Program each year at Parent Conferences, and through our needs assessment.
- We work hard to coordinate services with the administration and faculty to insure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. (Building Parent Capacity)

Easton Serves Children Through:

A Targeted Assistance Program where individual students in a school are targeted to receive Intervention services. Services supplement general education classroom instruction.

As a Parent, You're Part of the Title 1 Team!

You influence your child's education more than any teacher or school. Your involvement can boost your child's achievement. By taking an active role in Title 1, you'll show your child:

- the importance of his or her academic achievement.
- the importance you place on education.
- that your family and the school are a team that is working together to support your child.

You know your child best – so it's up to you to:

- share information about your child's interests and abilities with teachers.
- judge whether the Intervention is meeting your child's needs.
- speak up if you notice any problems.

During Parent Conferences, you can:

- learn more about the Intervention program.
- learn about your rights and responsibilities.
- meet other parents and teachers.
- begin a process of communication and cooperation between parents and schools.
- learn about parent workshops.

The Parent-School Compact is a document that states the goals and responsibilities of both parents and schools.

The Parental Involvement Statement helps parents understand and take part in the school's efforts.

Show Interest in Your Child's School Day

Ask questions and be specific. For example, ask what the class is studying and what your child did during recess or during a special class.

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 to the point that it impedes progress.

Encourage 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. Provide:

- a large, clear work surface.
- a comfortable chair.
- good lighting.
- a 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, so don't watch TV or talk 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.

Get to Know Your Child's School

- Even working parents can take part in many activities.
- Attend school events.
- Visit the classroom (make arrangements in advance).
- Join the school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC).
- Volunteer.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Keep teachers informed of events that might affect your child's work or behavior. – a parent's illness, a family loss, etc.

For more information...please contact a member of our Intervention Team:

Richardson Olmsted:

Shira Werb: Mathematics Coach 508-230-3227

Karen Daly: Literacy Coach 508-230-3227

Bryan Aries: Assistant Principal 508-230-3227 ext. 5118

Easton Middle School:

Deborah Treacy: Reading Specialist 508-320-3222

ELA Interventionist, TBD

Math Interventionist, Maria Ristuccia

Math Interventionist, Charles Woods

Mike Ciliberto: Assistant Principal 508-320-3222 ext. 2410

Central Administration:

Christine Pruitt – Assistant Superintendent 508-230-3200 ext. 207

For more information please go to Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/apa/titlei/>