

Title I Parent Information 2017-18

PDE provides the following description of Title I on their website:

“Title I is a 100% federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to local educational agencies to improve educational opportunities for educationally deprived children. Title I programs are designed to help children meet the state content and performance standards in reading, language arts, and mathematics. In buildings with 40% or more poverty, LEAs may use the funds to upgrade the entire curriculum of the school and are Schoolwide Programs. In buildings with less than 40% poverty, programs are designed to help specific children and are targeted assisted programs”
(<http://www.portal.state.pa.us>).

Charter Arts participates in the targeted assistance program. In the federal programs administrative manual, PDE defines a Title I student as a student that is “identified as failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the state’s challenging student academic achievement standards.” Furthermore, PDE requires each school district to define a set of objective criteria that are uniformly applied to all students at each grade level to identify students that meet this definition.

Any student that meets the school’s criteria is eligible to participate in Title I support services. A common misconception is that only students that are low-income are eligible for support. This is not true. Any student that is considered at risk of failing to meet the state’s academic standards is eligible to receive support. Any student that is identified as Title I will receive a school-guardian compact that outlines the expectations of all stakeholders in supporting the child. There will be a Title 1 parent meeting during back-to-school night which will clarify in more detail our Title 1 program, how students are identified and qualify to receive services, etc. This information can also be found in the student handbook, which all students receive the first week of school.

Because Charter Arts receives Title I federal funding, we are required to meet all regulations of the “No Child Left Behind Act” (NCLB) that was signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002. NCLB requires:

- Increased accountability for states and school districts.
- Greater choice for parents, especially those in low performing schools.
- Greater flexibility for state and local education agencies in the use of federal funding.

Under NCLB, parents have a right to request professional qualifications of their children’s teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about your children’s classroom teachers:

- Whether Pennsylvania has licensed the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Pennsylvania licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher’s baccalaureate degree major and whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s teachers or education, standardized assessments, Title I, the curriculum, and/or instruction, please do not hesitate to contact school administration. Charter Arts is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts to provide the best education for your child.