

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 2023

In 2020-2021, Charter Arts transitioned from a Title I Targeted Assistance model to a **Title I Schoolwide** approach. Based on an extensive needs assessment, a Title I planning committee met to identify areas of need, set goals to address these needs, and create a plan to work towards these goals. These goals and plans are shared during the first family engagement event of the school year and communicated via email and website.

Charter Arts receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards, through the schoolwide program. 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." Schools with less than 40% poverty may also submit an application to be considered Schoolwide.

A common misconception is that only students who are low-income are eligible for support. **This is not true.** With the transition to a schoolwide model, **ALL students** are eligible for support in relation to these specific school goals.

Title I is discussed during our fall back-to-school night, and Charter Arts always hosts Title I family meetings to review services offered and to plan for the upcoming year. A family survey is given every spring to gather additional feedback and improve our programming. Additionally, family education will be offered through our family engagement series.

Because Charter Arts receives Title I federal funding, we are required to meet all regulations of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) that was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA). ESSA 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 ESSA, parents have a right to request professional qualifications of their children's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s), including:

- 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

ESSA also allows parents and family members the right to know information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and information on required assessments that include subject matter tested, purpose of test, source of the requirement (if applicable), amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and time and format of disseminating results. As the state updates their requirements, the Charter Arts website will be updated accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding your child's education, please reach out to your child's teacher(s). If you have any additional questions about your child's teachers, 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.

Best,

Cyndi Evans
Federal Programs Coordinator cevans@charterarts.org