

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 2026

Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts (Charter Arts) is a designated **Title I Schoolwide Program**. Each spring, our Title I Planning Committee reviews student achievement data, identifies areas of need, establishes schoolwide goals, and develops a plan to address those needs. These goals and initiatives are shared during our first family engagement event of the school year and are also communicated through email and the Charter Arts website.

During the **2026–2027 school year**, our Title I Schoolwide Program will continue to focus on strengthening literacy instruction, supporting students through our **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)**, and increasing student achievement through evidence-based instructional practices. We remain committed to using student data to guide instruction, monitor progress, and provide appropriate academic support to help all students succeed.

Charter Arts receives federal Title I funding to help students meet Pennsylvania's academic standards through our Schoolwide Program. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) describes Title I as follows:

"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 assistance programs. Schools with less than 40% poverty may also submit an application to be considered Schoolwide."

One common misconception is that only students from low-income families are eligible for Title I support. Because Charter Arts operates a **Schoolwide Program**, **all students** are eligible to benefit from Title I-funded programs and services that support our schoolwide goals.

Title I programs and services are reviewed during our annual Back-to-School Night and at our annual Title I Family Meeting. Families are encouraged to participate in the planning process by attending meetings and completing the annual family survey each spring. Charter Arts also offers family engagement opportunities throughout the school year to strengthen the partnership between home and school and to support student success.

As a recipient of federal Title I funding, Charter Arts complies with the requirements of the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ESSA promotes:

- Increased accountability for states and school districts.
- Greater opportunities for parent and family engagement.
- Increased flexibility for state and local educational agencies in the use of federal funds.

Under ESSA, parents and guardians have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

- Whether the teacher holds Pennsylvania certification for the grade level and subject(s) taught.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional certification.
- The teacher's bachelor's degree major and any graduate degrees or certifications earned.
- Whether instructional services are provided by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

ESSA also provides families with the right to receive information regarding state and local assessments, including:

- Student participation and opt-out procedures.
- The purpose of each required assessment.
- The subject areas being assessed.
- Whether the assessment is required by federal or state law.
- The approximate amount of time students spend completing each assessment.
- How and when assessment results are shared with families.

As state assessment requirements are updated, current information will be available on the Charter Arts website.

If you have questions regarding your child's education, please contact your child's teacher(s). If you have additional questions about Title I, curriculum, instruction, standardized assessments, or your rights under ESSA, please do not hesitate to contact school administration.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education. We look forward to working with you throughout the 2026–2027 school year to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Evans

Federal Programs Coordinator

cevens@charterarts.org