

MADISON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Title I Parent Handbook

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*Raise Expectations, Increase Achievement, Prepare for
Tomorrow...Make it Happen!*

Madison Local School District Title I Program

The Madison Local School District adopted the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) System for use with the Title I program that began with the 2012-13 school year. Our instructors received training on this program during the summer of 2012, follow up training during the 2012-13 school year, and additional training for new resource teachers in subsequent years.

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI), published by Heinemann's Publishing, is a short-term individual or small group, supplementary intervention program developed by Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell. LLI is designed to serve struggling readers in grades K-12 and is built around a text reading gradient designed by Fountas and Pinnell. This system designates leveled texts from A (easiest) to Z (most difficult). The objective of LLI is to help students reduce the gap between their current instructional reading level and their expected instructional reading level.

LLI is described as a system because it includes reading, writing, and word study, each used together and systematically across increasingly difficult levels of texts. Four LLI Systems have been purchased for use in our elementary buildings:

1. Orange: recommended for Kindergarten, Levels A through C
2. Green: recommended for Grade 1, Levels A through J
3. Blue: Recommended for Grade 2, Levels C through N
4. Red: Recommended for Grades 3-4, Levels L through Q
5. Gold: Recommended for Grades 4, Levels O through T

The LLI systems are designed to provide 10 to 18 weeks of intensive extra reading lessons, in addition to their classroom work, that should accelerate the student's reading progress. Students participate in LLI lessons that are taught by an LLI trained resource teacher. LLI small group instruction allows for close observation and differentiated responses to student strengths and weaknesses.

After the intended term of instruction, the students are released from the program if appropriate grade level expectations are met. Students who have made progress but have not yet met expected instructional reading levels for grade and time will be re-evaluated using LLI assessment measures. The evaluation may suggest more time in LLI or alternative models such as moving from small group to individual tutoring. Parental support of the program is also a key in helping the child improve his or her reading performance.

Title I Parent Handbook

Annual Planning

This parent handbook is provided to acquaint parents with the Title I program in Madison Local Schools. The Title I programs at the individual elementary schools are developed through the efforts of parents, teachers, administrators, and Title I resource staff. Programs are planned through a series of steps. First, a needs assessment is conducted through input from parents, teachers, and staff. Parents are invited to contact Title I staff or the program director at any time during the year and also at the annual Federal Program review which is conducted as part of the September Board of Education meeting. Second, teachers, staff, and parents plan how to best meet the needs shown in these assessments. Next, teachers receive training on how to best serve these needs and implement the plan that is developed. Resources are gathered that are needed to implement the plan and finally a yearly review is conducted to examine results and re-evaluate needs.

What is Title I?

Title I is a federally funded education program that is designed to give all children a chance to learn at higher academic standards. Its purpose is to prevent failure by ensuring that more children experience success in school. The Title I funds that schools receive are based upon the number of low-income families in the district. Madison Local is able to allocate these funds for services for eligible students in the following schools:

- Eastview Elementary
- Mifflin Elementary
- South Elementary
- Middle School & High School – tutoring only

Sometimes children need assistance to meet the educational standards that Ohio has set for all children. This includes children who:

- Have trouble reading
- Read below their grade level
- Have trouble understanding what they read
- Have difficulty with math

What Help does Title I Schoolwide provide?

Title I provides assistance in one or more academic areas. Extra help includes:

- Additional resource teachers to work with small groups or individuals
- Before and after school tutoring
- Additional training for staff
- A variety of instructional strategies and materials
- Smaller classes for eligible students
- Kindergarten Camp

How is a school chosen to provide a Schoolwide Title I program?

Individual schools with poverty rates above 40% may use Title I funds, along with other funds, to operate a “schoolwide program” to upgrade the instructional program for the entire school. All four Madison elementary schools piloted the schoolwide program during the 2010-2011 school year with the three remaining schools (Eastview, Mifflin, and South) fully implementing the program. Since the 2016-2017 school year, instructors for all three elementary buildings have continued the LLI program.

What does being a Schoolwide Title I program involve?

There are specific guidelines for all Title I schools that operate schoolwide programs. Each schoolwide program has implemented a comprehensive school improvement plan which addresses ten (10) required elements:

1. A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school using data analysis
2. Schoolwide reform strategies with emphasis on improved achievement of the lowest achieving students
3. Instruction by highly qualified staff as addressed in ESSA
4. High quality and ongoing professional development activities
5. Strategies to attract highly qualified teachers
6. Strategies to increase effective parental involvement
7. Plans for assisting preschool children from early childhood programs to elementary school programs
8. Measures to include teachers in assessment decisions regarding the use of assessments in improving student performance and instructional programs
9. Strategies for providing timely additional assistance to students who are experiencing difficulties in mastering standards
10. Coordination and integration of federal, state, and local services/programs.

As parents, please keep in mind...

You influence your child’s education more than any teacher or the school. By taking an active role in the school, you will show your child

- How important s/he is to you
- How important education is to you
- That you and the school are a team

How are Parents involved?

Parents are a vital part of the Schoolwide Title I program. Ideas, support, and presence of parents are essential for an effective school program.

- Parent meetings, for all parents, are held annually in the fall for each Title I school. At this meeting, information pertaining to the Title I program is presented and parent questions and concerns are addressed by staff.
- Each Title I school develops and distributes to parents a Title I parent-student-school compact to be signed and returned.
- Parents are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences. These meetings provide parents with a report on their child's progress and for the opportunity to review the parent-school compact.
- Each Title I school has a parental involvement plan.
- Materials for helping your child at home will be provided.
- Parents will be asked to complete a questionnaire in May of each year about the Title I program. This information will be used to help plan the program for the upcoming year.
- Parents may observe their child participating in the Title I program as scheduled by the teacher and approved by the Building Principal.
- In cooperation with the PTO, parent meetings and workshops will be scheduled as needed throughout the school year.
- Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in the development and review of the Title I Schoolwide plan.
- Parents have the right to request highly qualified teacher information.

How to help your child...

- Share information about your child's interests and abilities with teachers.
- Update your child's teacher and school about changes at home and your child's health.
- Find out what your child is being taught.
- Become a volunteer.
- Share a love for learning.
- Learn about your school and its programs.
- Monitor your child's progress by reviewing homework, tests, progress reports, and other school assessment results.

Parent involvement pays off...

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation and self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased drug and alcohol use
- Fewer behavior incidents
- Greater chance of going on to trade school, college, or other post-secondary education programs