

## **Lebanon City Schools Title I Programs Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Title I?**

Title I is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools. The program serves millions of children in elementary and secondary schools each year. Part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I provides financial assistance to school districts to ensure that all students meet challenging state academic standards.

### **How does Title I work?**

The federal government provides funding to the states each year for Title I. The State Educational Agencies (in Lebanon's case, the Ohio Department of Education) disburses funds to school districts based on the number of students enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program. Lebanon City Schools then identifies eligible schools and students and provides Title I services.

### **What Lebanon school buildings have a Title I program this year?**

In the 2022-2023 school year, Bowman Primary and Donovan Elementary each have Title I programs. Lebanon City Schools uses federal Title I funds to support students who are at-risk of not passing mandated state achievement tests. Students in grades K-4 can be served in the Title I program. Preschool is not part of Title I.

### **What do students do in the Title I programs?**

Building literacy skills is the focus of each of Lebanon's Title I programs. Teachers use a program called Leveled Literacy Instruction (LLI) as the foundation for the program. Teachers also rely on their training and experience to most appropriately assist each student.

### **My child does not receive free or reduced-price meals; how can he or she receive Title I services?**

Schools qualify for Title I funding based on the percentage of students who receive free or reduced-price meals. Admission into Title I services is solely based on a student's academic performance. Any student is eligible if he or she qualifies academically; economic status is not a consideration.

### **Who are the teachers who work in the Lebanon's Title I programs?**

At Bowman Primary: Mary Bookman, Jen Colton, Kara Davenport, Shannon Elliott, and Julie Meno. At Donovan Elementary: Jordana Conger, Alisonne Hicks and Toni McKiernan.

### **How are students chosen for a Title I program?**

Students are selected to participate in a Title I program based on several criteria, and the criteria varies for each building's program. Among the data points Lebanon schools use are AimsWEB scores, MAP assessment performance, previous year's state achievement test scores (if available), benchmark reading levels, and teacher recommendations.

### **When will my student work with a Title I teacher?**

In most cases, students work with their Title I teacher daily for 20-30 minutes. Students leave their regular classroom and receive small group instruction from the Title I teacher. This model is commonly referred to as a pull-out program. Students do not miss regular classroom instruction in reading or mathematics to work with their Title I teacher.

### **How can I be involved as a parent?**

1. Each school plans multiple parental involvement events each year. Attend as many as you can!
2. Support the items in the [Parent-School Compact](#), an agreement between school staff members, parents, and students to share the goal of helping students meet state standards.
3. Determine if teachers are using apps or other electronic means of communication.

4. A Parent Title I Advisory Committee meets to review the Title I Policies and make recommendations. This group also reviews the Parent School Compacts. If you are the parent or guardian of a student receiving Title I support and would like to serve on this Parent Advisory Committee in the future, please contact Mark Graler at 513-934-5772, or [graler.mark@lebanonschools.org](mailto:graler.mark@lebanonschools.org). If you need special assistance to enable your participation, please let us know.

**If my child receives Title I support now does that mean he or she will always receive Title I support?**

No. Each year school staff members revisit and review the procedures and criteria to determine which students qualify for Title I services. Students may also be dismissed from Title I during a school year if they have shown progress.

**How do students refer to Title I? Is there a stigma attached to Title I?**

Title I programs are known as Book Club or Reading Club. Kids love being in clubs. We are unaware of students being stigmatized by participation in Title I programs.

**What should I do if I do not want my child to participate in a Title I program?**

Contact your child's principal. Lebanon will honor the wishes of parents or guardians with regard to Title I services. We may ask for a written request to withdraw a child from Title I services.

**When do students stop participating in Title I programs?**

At the beginning of the school year and again at the beginning of second semester, lists are prepared at each school that contain student names and various data points. Federal law requires that school staff use data to place students in Title I programs. Using the data, students are listed in order of need, and those with the greatest need participate in the program. If a student 'graduates' from a Title I program, that means the student's skills have improved to the point that Title I support is no longer needed.

**Other questions?**

No problem! Get in touch with any of us for more information.

Bowman Primary, 513-934-5800

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