

Fact Sheet

Baltimore County Public Schools

6901 N. Charles Street · Towson · MD · 21204

Title I Targeted Assistance Program

What is Title I?

Title I is a federal grant that focuses on improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged children.

The grant provides funds to Title I schools to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and state academic assessments.

Title I implemented through a *Targeted Assistance* or *Schoolwide* program structure.

How does a school become a Title I school in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS)?

Schools become eligible for Title I when:

- 1) they are an elementary school with an official FARMS rate of 54.8% or higher or
- 2) they are any school with an official FARMS rate of 75% or higher.

What is the difference between the two types of Title I programs:

1. *Targeted Assistance Program*, and
2. *Schoolwide Program*

When a school becomes a Title I school, the school must operate a *Targeted Assistance* program for two years.

During these two years, the additional funds are used to focus on a targeted group of students the school has identified.

After implementing the *Targeted Assistance* program for two years, the school may choose to operate a *Schoolwide Program* by developing a schoolwide plan.

The purpose of a *Schoolwide* program is to focus the additional funds on upgrading the entire educational program of the school.

Once the plan is approved, the school will implement the *Schoolwide* program for as long as the school remains Title I.

How are the students selected to participate in the *Targeted Assistance* program?

Eligible children are identified by the school as failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the state's challenging academic achievement standards on the basis of multiple, educationally related criteria established by the school. Examples are report card grades, Maryland State Assessment (MSA) results, and teacher recommendations.

How does the *Targeted Assistance* program benefit my child?

The program provides additional funds to support the achievement of students at-risk of not achieving state standards by providing targeted students with:

- extended learning opportunities using small group instruction, and
- access to supplemental resources.

What are the requirements of this grant?

In addition to spending the funds for student achievement of targeted students, the school also has a parent involvement obligation amount that must be spent on parent involvement activities for parents of Targeted Assistance students.

These activities should build:

- parent capacity to assist in their child's education,
- parent-school communication, and
- parent, school, and community partnerships.

What are my rights as a parent?

Parents are encouraged to:

- provide input on the development of the Parent Involvement Plan and School-Parent Compact;
- provide input on how parent involvement funds should be spent;
- provide input on how school staff can work with parents as equal partners in their child's educational process;
- volunteer at their child's school; and
- participate in parent-teacher conferences.

What other resources are available to help me assist my child in his/her education?

Parents may access the following websites for additional resources:

Baltimore County Public Schools Parent Support Services website: www.bcps.org/offices/dpd/pss.html