

Office of Federal Programs, Santa Rosa County School District: (850) 983-5001

## Special Interest Articles

- What is Title I?
  - What is a SPAR Report?
  - What do I have a "Right to Know" about my child's teacher?
- **District Title I Parent Advisory Council Meeting:**  
October 1, 2019  
5:30-7:30  
5086 Canal Street  
Milton, FL
- **\*If you are interested in representing your Title I School, please see your school principal.**



## What is Title I?

As the parent of a school-aged child, you have no doubt heard about the Every Student Succeeds Act (*ESSA*) and would like to understand what it means—especially the benefits it offers you and your child.

On December 10, 2015, *ESSA* was signed into law. *ESSA* includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools. Below are just a few.

\*Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.

\*Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught in high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.

\*Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.

\*Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators—consistent with our Investing in Innovation and Promise Neighbors.

\*Sustains and expands this administrations historic investment in increasing access to high-quality preschool.

\*Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive

change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

In 1965, Congress passed the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, providing, for the first time, some federal funding for K–12 education. The original law has been renewed eight times, most recently by *ESSA*.

Title I of *ESSA* is "Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged." Why is this important to your understanding of *ESSA*? Because **schools with high concentrations of children from low-income families receive Title I education funds.** They receive this money through their states and districts, and more than half of all public schools (55 percent) fall into this category, often called "**Title I schools.**"

*ESSA* empowers you to ask important questions and make informed decisions about your child's education. The law also requires states, districts and schools to develop ways to get parents more involved in their child's education and in improving their child's school. For example, both Title I districts and schools must have written policies on parental involvement and provide this information to you.

## What is a SPAR Report?

Florida's ESSA School Public Accountability Reports (SPAR) have been generated to comply with federal NCLB legislation that requires annual report cards on the educational progress of schools, school districts, and the state.

The report contains information about your school: readiness, student performance, school safety, teachers and staff, Adequate Yearly Progress, and student demographics.

These reports are initially published prior to the beginning of the school year.

For specific information on the measurement of [Adequate Yearly Progress](#) for individual schools, school districts, and the state, please visit the website at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>

To see the SPAR report for your school, visit: <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm>

**For more information on legislation and reporting requirements pertaining the Every Student Succeeds Act, please visit the website at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/essa.shtml>**

**Don't have access to the Internet? Ask to see your school's SPAR report in the front office. Many Title I schools also provide Internet access for parents.**



## What do I have "A Right to Know" about my child's teacher?

*ESSA* provides funding to help teachers improve their instructional skills through training and other professional development. The law also requires states to develop plans to make sure that all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified. It defines a "highly qualified" teacher as one with a bachelor's degree, full state certification, and demonstrated competence for each subject taught.

**The SRC School District is committed to providing information to you regarding your child's teacher and paraprofessional qualifications in a timely manner upon request.**

**You have the right to**

**request the following information from your School Principal:**

- Whether the teacher has met state licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which through which state qualifications of licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification of degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by

paraprofessionals, and, if so, their qualifications.

- The achievement level of your child on the Florida State Assessment (FSA)

Please be assured that the SRC School District is dedicated to providing the students of our County with a quality education.