

Title 1 Staff

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Avella Elementary Center Title 1 Handbook

2021-22



“The mission of the Avella Area School District is to promote responsible citizenship, and the pursuit of educational excellence for every student.”

What is Title 1?

Title 1 is the largest federally funded program in education, and was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or Title 1, was designed to help students having difficulties with reading by providing funds for extra attention, materials, and teachers. Since it began, the program has gone through numerous name changes, but it continues to provide instructional help for students that need it most. Funding is directed to schools based upon their poverty levels.

Avella Elementary Title 1 Mission Statement

In accordance with the mission of the school district, and with the guidelines and regulations of the Title 1 program, we are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students, parents, and staff. Through a trusting, sharing, and open partnership, the parents and staff will share the responsibility for student achievement in reading. Parents and staff will also communicate frequently, in order to provide opportunities for shared decision making.

Avella Elementary Center Title 1 Goals

1. To increase active participation of all parents/guardians in the education of their children.
2. To improve student performance in basic reading skills.
3. To provide an environment where the child, not the program, is the most important.

Avella Elementary Center Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy

The Avella Elementary Center's policy, in accordance with Section 118 of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act of 2001, will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents. Communication with parents will include:

- An annual meeting to inform parents of their rights and responsibilities.
- Results of individual assessments, including an interpretation of the results.
- Descriptions of the curriculum, forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and proficiency levels that are expected.
- Shared responsibility in developing parent/student/school compacts.
- Opportunities for regular meetings, scheduled at various times.

Involvement strategies will be coordinated with Head Start and Early Intervention programs to promote an easier transition into public school. Information and materials will be provided to enhance the understanding of the importance of parental involvement and to build more effective communication skills.

A portion of the Title 1 allocations will be reserved for parent involvement activities, which will include two events per school year. Use of the funds will be decided by Title 1 staff, and members of the Parent Advisory Council.

A yearly evaluation of the Parent Involvement Policy is required, and parents should be involved in this process. Both the content and effectiveness of the policy should be evaluated, and comments, questions, and concerns from parents should be addressed. A questionnaire will be sent home to parents of Title 1 students towards the end of the school year, and parents are asked to respond and provide feedback and suggestions. Results of the questionnaire are taken into consideration to improve the Title 1 program, and revise the Parent Involvement Plan.

Title 1 Parent/Student/School Compact

This compact is a document that is sent to each parent of a Title 1 student in the fall. The compact outlines the expectations of the parent/student/school for the school year. When everyone does their part, the student experiences valuable and lasting success at school. A digital copy of the compact, as well as the Parent Involvement Policy, can be found on the district's website.

Parent's Rights

The Avella Elementary Center operates under a Title 1 Targeted Assistance Program. This means that students having the greatest need will be identified to receive Title 1 services. Parents of Title 1 students have certain rights, which are listed below.

- Parents must receive a copy of a written Parent Involvement Policy. This policy describes how parents and the school staff work together to ensure students succeed in school. The policy also describes in detail your rights as parents and what is expected of you. The policy is located on the next page of this handbook.
- The school will hold a meeting in the fall to explain the Title 1 program to all parents, and what their rights are under the program.
- Parents can be involved in the yearly review of the parent/student/school compact. This compact is an agreement between parents, children, and school staff.
- At least one scheduled parent/teacher conference during the school year, typically in November. Parents also have the right to receive progress updates from their child's teacher on their performance.
- An opportunity to review the Parent Involvement Plan each year. This plan can be changed if certain activities are not working, and new ideas can be discussed.

What is the role of Title 1 at Avella Elementary Center?

Title 1 is a program that provides reading support to students that meet the qualifications for the program. Students in grades K-6 may qualify for Title 1 at Avella Elementary.

What does the Title 1 program look like?

The Title 1 program supplements the regular classroom curriculum and instruction. Small groups of students work with Mrs. Baker, our Reading Specialist, and Mrs. Conn, our Title 1 Aide daily. Students in Title 1 receive instruction that is targeted to their specific area(s) of need.

Which students are eligible for the program?

To qualify for Title 1 services, students are identified in several ways:

- STAR reading test scores
- DIBELS reading assessment scores
- Classroom performance, as evidenced by grades and work samples
- Referrals from teachers
- Standardized testing scores

What makes the Title 1 program successful?

In order for Avella Elementary students to be successful, a unified effort must be carried out between the school, parents, and students working together. The Title 1 program centers around the belief that children are capable of making decisions, solving problems, and learning from their experiences. Parents of Title 1 students are an important part of this team approach. The administration and teachers at Avella Elementary Center encourage and welcome parent involvement in the education of their children.

Assessments at Avella Elementary

The purpose of assessments is to monitor student progress towards district and state learning outcomes. The district framework for curriculum, instruction, and assessment provides for multiple forms of assessments, which include quizzes, tests, writing samples, and progress monitoring.

Students also participate in school wide assessments, which measure cumulative grade level knowledge and skills in the areas of reading and math. All students are given the DIBELS reading assessment in the fall, winter, and spring, and are given the STAR reading and math assessments every 9 weeks. Results on these assessments are taken into consideration to determine a student's eligibility for Title One services.

Students in grades 3-6 also take the PSSA standardized test every spring, and results from the reading and math portions are taken into consideration when determining eligibility for Title One services.

All students receive report cards every 9 weeks, as well as midterm progress reports. Students that qualify for Title 1 services will also receive progress reports each 9 weeks.

Curriculum and Standards

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted State Standards in Language Arts and Math for all public schools in the state. The Avella Area School District has aligned the K-12 curriculum to prepare students for the state assessment tests that are administered in grades 3-6, 7, 8, and 11. Standards tell us what students should know and be able to do in a content area at a specific grade level.

Highly Qualified Staff

Every school receiving Title 1 funds is required to notify parents of their right to receive information concerning the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). This includes the degrees and certifications held, and whether the teacher is certified in the area he/she is teaching.

Parents may also receive information as to whether or not their child is receiving instruction by a paraprofessional and his/her qualifications.

Any parents who request this information should contact Mrs. Graff, Elementary principal and Federal Programs Coordinator.

