



Dear PCA Families,

We are so excited about this school year! While it may look a bit different than past years, we are so excited to have the PCA community together again! We will be hosting our Title I Annual Meeting on August 24th, 2023 at 5:00 on campus. As part of this meeting, parents are invited to provide input on the school's title funds expenditures/plans, five-year strategic plan, review the school's performance data, and ask questions about PCA. We hope you are able to join in and provide feedback.

Meeting Information: August 24th, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the PCA Business Office.

More information regarding Title funds can be found on the school's website. Additionally, we welcome feedback from families through the following [survey](#).

We have also added some reminders regarding Title I below.

Title I

The name, Title I, refers to a set of programs created by the U.S. Department of Education to distribute funding to schools and school districts with a high percentage of students from low-income families. The ultimate goal is to provide effective instruction for all students and offer additional remediation to eligible, struggling students.

Parent Involvement

PCA offers families many different ways to be involved and informed about the community, including, but not limited to:

- Open Houses
- Opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips
- Conferences
- Education Fair
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Family events, such as concerts and family dances

Parent Rights

Title I law requires schools to foster parent and family engagement. PCA holds events to discuss Title I programs, curriculum, and the home-school connection. Flyers are sent home,



announcements are posted on the PCA website, and a calendar is published to keep families updated about parent meetings and events.

PCA policies are parent-friendly documents with a shared vision for student success. These documents are shared at Open House Events and are posted on the PCA website.

School-Parent Compacts are required by law in elementary schools to reinforce everyone's responsibilities for student achievement—teachers, students, and parents/guardians. These can be found on the school website and are distributed at various school activities and literature.

Parents receive notification letters when their children receive Title I services and are taught by a teacher who does not hold a "Highly Qualified" rating for four or more weeks consecutively. We encourage parents to participate in the educational process and communicate frequently with teachers to develop strong home-school relationships with core and Title I teachers.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers have the right to learn about the credentials of their child's teacher(s). Parents have the ability to access the Delaware Educator Data System (DEEDS) located on the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) website by following this link: <https://deeds30.doe.k12.de.us/#/VerifyLicense>.

The school will notify parents and guardians in writing when their child has been instructed by a non-Highly Qualified teacher for four or more weeks.

Parent Voice

Parent suggestions are welcomed at both the school and state level because programs should reflect your child and family's needs. You are a stakeholder in the educational process and should have an opportunity to collaborate in programs that will support your student and foster mutual understanding.

- At the school level, you can participate in Title I nights, open houses and by becoming a member of the PTO, CBOC, and/or Calendar Committee. Never forget that you can always request meetings with the PCA leadership team to learn about the programs and share your ideas.
- At the state level, the Delaware State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) welcomes school representatives to promote collaborative efforts between school districts and communities.



Assessment

Section 112(e)(2) of the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) requires divisions that receive Title I Part A funds to notify parents of students attending Title I schools and that parents may request information regarding any state or local policy regarding student participation in required assessments.

At the beginning of each school year, a local education agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by Section 1111(b)(2) and by the state or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable. The notice must be made available in any language as requested by a parent.

A revision on December 10, 2015 the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 112(e)(2) of ESSA state that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or school policies regarding student participation in any assessment mandated by ESSA, including any policy procedure or parental right to opt students out of such assessments.

Delaware administers the following statewide assessments:

[English Language Arts \(ELA\)](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Science](#)

[Social Studies](#)

[Alternate Assessment \(Alt-1\)](#)

[National Assessment of Education Progress \(NAEP\)](#)

Parent and Educator Resources can be found at: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3814>.

[DeSSA Assessment Calendar SY23/24](#)
[Requirement to Test Students on Statewide Assessments](#)

[2023/2024 DeSSA Administration Policy](#)

[2023/2024 DeSSA Participation Policy](#)

[2023/2024 DeSSA Multi-Lingual Learners Policy](#)

[DeSSA Test Security Manual SY2023/2024](#)

[DeSSA Assessment Descriptions and](#)

[Testing Times SY23/24](#)

[DeSSA Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)



Information about our state assessment is located at: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3814>. Parents wishing to learn more about assessments, participation, or procedures for student opt out should contact PCA's leadership team.

Title I Part A

Title I Part A (Section 112)(e)(1)(B)(ii) specifies the following requirement.

At the beginning of each school year, each LEA shall notify its parents that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

- i. Whether the student's teacher-
 - a. Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - b. Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - c. Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher
- ii. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
 - a. Parents may also request information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part and timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. The notice and information provided to parents must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practical, provided in the language that the parents can understand. If you are interested in this information, you may send your request to the Head of School, who will provide a timely response.

Additional Information

For more information on Title I or any of the information listed above, please contact Rachael Straightiff at Rachael.Straightiff@pca.k12.de.us.