

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?
- What is a PIRC?



What is Title I?

As the parent of a school-aged child, you have no doubt heard about *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) and would like to understand what it means—especially the benefits it offers you and your child. On January 8, 2002, NCLB was signed into law. Americans united behind a revolutionary idea: every child can learn. The law confirms that as a nation, we will not accept a public school system that educates only a portion of its children. NCLB recognizes what truly makes a difference in providing a quality education. It calls for a highly qualified teacher in the core subjects in every classroom; the use of proven, research-based instructional methods; and timely information and options

for parents. Schools that under perform are held accountable, providing their students with free tutoring or transfer to a better-performing public school. In other words, children's education needs are placed first—where they belong.

To achieve its goals, NCLB works according to four common-sense principles: holding schools accountable for results; giving states and districts flexibility in how they spend federal money; using scientific research to guide classroom practice; and involving parents by giving them information and choices about their children's education.

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 NCLB.

No Child Left Behind is about a commitment to all children, and of course, it's one that we absolutely must honor if we're going to continue to thrive as the great nation that we are."

—Secretary of Education
Margaret Spellings

Title I of *No Child Left Behind* is "Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged." Why is this important to your understanding of NCLB? 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.**"



No Child Left Behind 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 NCLB 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/nclb_spar/index.cfm

For more information on legislation and reporting requirements pertaining to No Child Left Behind, please visit the website at <http://www.fldoe.org/NCLB>.

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?



No Child Left Behind 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 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 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

You will be notified in writing if your child has been assigned or has been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met the NCLB highly qualified criteria.

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



www.partnershipcenter.usf.edu



Other than helping your children to grow up healthy and happy, the most important thing that you can do for them is to help them develop their reading skills

The Florida Partnership for Family Involvement in Education has been awarded a Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC) grant from the US Department of Education. These federal funds will assist all parents and schools in Florida.

All project activities help to:

- Understand and implement the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act
- Increase academic achievement through Parent Involvement

The goals are:

1. Implement research-based parental involvement policies, practices, programs and activities that are linked to improving academic achievement such as:
 - Math And Parent Partnerships (MAPPS) Training
 - Teachers Involving Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS)
 - Parent Involvement Research to Practice Symposiums

- New Teacher Training Module
 - School-Parent Compact Initiative
2. Provide training, information and support services that strengthen the relationship between parents and schools in meaningful ways that improve academic achievement.
 - Low Literacy Resources
 - Training Modules for Using Technology
 - Enhance Web Site and Expand List Serves
 - Strengthen community-based parent partners
 - Conference Presentations and Training
 3. Coordinate, collaborate and network to increase collaboration and coordination of efforts related to family involvement and academic achievement, and inform parents of the

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

- Cosponsor Family Involvement Leadership Series
- Establish Regional Training Cooperatives
- Increase Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations
- Develop School Choice, Standards and Supplemental Educational Services Information for Parents

For more information, please contact:

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