

Higher Ground Academy Notice to Parents

Higher Ground Academy (HGA) is a Title I school.

Title I, a federally funded program, is designed to provide support to students who are performing below grade level in reading and/or mathematics. The goal of Title I is to help students succeed in the regular classroom and reach grade level performance.

Title I services at HGA

At HGA, we offer Title I programs to meet the needs of students. The service model that we use is what is called ‘targeted assistance’ program. In this model, selected students receive additional academic instruction or other types of assistance to support them in school. Typically services focus on providing additional help in reading and/or mathematics instruction, but services could include other areas as well.

Why is HGA a Title I school?

Federal law requires that Title I programs are available in schools with the greatest concentration of low-income families. At HGA, 95 percent or more of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Thus HGA is a Title I school. According to Federal guidelines, once a school qualifies as a Title I school, academic need – not economic status – determines the school programming and whether students receive extra instruction. As a result, only students who are performing below grade level qualify for the targeted assistance provided by the school’s Title I program.

Who are Title I students?

Typically students identified as needing Title I services are those who are having academic difficulties or other concerns that are affecting their academic achievement in school. Usually students’ needs are identified by their classroom teachers based on their test scores and other measures of academic performance. Those who show the greatest educational need and are not already receiving special education services are served first.

How are parents/guardians involved?

- Parents are invited to attend the school’s annual Title I Meeting which is usually held in May.
- Parents are notified of their child’s eligibility for and participation in Title I
- Parents, staff and students may participate in the development and carrying out of a compact that spells out the goals and shared responsibilities of the child, school and parents for student success
- Parents are encouraged to participate in Title I meetings and learning opportunities
- Parents are encouraged to participate in Reading and Mathematics nights that are scheduled during the year. (training on how to assist students is given to parents on those nights)

As a parent/guardian, you have the right to:

- know the qualifications of your child’s teacher

- know when your child has a substitute teacher for more than four weeks and the qualifications of the substitute teacher
- know how your child's school is rated on its state test scores
- expect regular communication with your school in a language that you can understand
- work with other parents and staff to develop a school-level parent compact between the school and its families
- work with teachers, parents and the school principal to develop your school's family involvement plan
- ask for a meeting with your school principal or your child's teacher at any time