

# PROGRAM FACTS

## TITLE I, PART A - PRESCHOOL

### FLORIDA

## **WHY IMPLEMENT TITLE I PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS?**

Title I, Part A funds can be used to create or enhance existing preschool programs to prepare children to enter elementary school with the language, cognitive, and early reading skills they need to succeed. A high quality Title I preschool program could play a key role in ensuring that students meet challenging state academic achievement standards in elementary school and beyond.

### **Funding**

Title I, Part A funds may be used to fund Title I preschool programs for eligible children<sup>\*</sup> in the district as a whole or in a portion of the district.

Allowable expenses include:

- Direct educational services
- Teachers' and paraprofessionals' salaries
- Professional development
- Parental involvement
- Diagnostic screening
- Supplemental instructional materials to support learning

### **Benefits of Using Title I Funds to Create New Title I Preschool Programs**

- Reach families and children at risk before they enter elementary school.
- Provide high-quality early childhood programs with sufficient instructional time to impact at-risk youngsters.
- Give teachers the skills necessary to work with young children at risk of school failure.

### **Benefits of Using Title I Funds to Expand and Supplement Existing Preschool Programs**

#### **Expand or Supplement Head Start**

- Use Title I funds to serve children who cannot be served under Head Start due to lack of capacity.
- Provide services to Title I-eligible children who are not eligible for Head Start.

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<sup>\*</sup> Eligibility requirements are on page 2.

- Provide additional service to Head Start children who are also eligible for Title I services by:
  - Extending the daily program for full-day service
  - Increasing the numbers of days
  - Providing services at times Head Start is not operating
  - Enriching services through the provision of extra personnel to work with Title I-eligible children in Head Start classrooms

### **Expand or Supplement Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)**

- Extend the daily voluntary prekindergarten program to include services that provide full-day instruction for VPK children who are also Title I-eligible.
- Provide professional development that includes:
  - VPK Education Standards training
  - Strategies to maximize instructional time through effective classroom management
  - Emergent literacy training
  - Language and vocabulary development
- Provide opportunities for ongoing training and parental involvement to reinforce classroom instruction.

### **Requirements for Title I Preschool Programs**

#### **Eligibility**

- Children who live in the attendance area of Title I schools operating *schoolwide programs* are eligible for preschool services.
- To be eligible to attend a Title I preschool program in a *targeted assistance* school, pre-school aged children must be failing or most at-risk of failing to meet the state's challenging student academic achievement standards as determined by multiple, educationally related, objective criteria established by the district and supplemented by the school or participate in a Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First at any time during the two preceding years. Homeless children and children in neglected and delinquent programs are automatically eligible for Title I preschool service.

#### **Staff Qualification**

- Title I preschool *instructors* have to meet, at a minimum the highly qualified paraprofessional requirements.
- Paraprofessionals must provide instructional support under the direct supervision of a teacher.
- Title I preschool program staffed entirely by paraprofessionals is not permitted.

## **Transition to Kindergarten**

Districts must:

- Have a plan for coordinating and integrating Title I preschool program with other early childhood educational services and a plan for the transition of children into kindergarten.

## **Parental Involvement**

All provisions in section 1118 apply to Title I preschool programs except the requirement in section 1118 (d)(2)(A) concerning discussion of the school-parent compact at parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools. A district must include the following parental involvement components that are required for a regular Title I, Part A program either in their district plan or school-wide plan:

- *Annual Parent Meeting* – Title I preschool staff should conduct a meeting for parents outlining what they and their child(ren) can expect from participating in the Title I preschool program.
- *Parent-School Compact* – A parent-school compact must be written and disseminated to Title I preschool parents outlining the parents' and schools' responsibilities for learning.
- *Parent Involvement Policy* – This policy is developed and distributed to Title I parents and outlines the activities and services parents can expect from the Title I preschool program throughout the school year.

## **Resources**

### **Website**

<http://www.fl DOE.org/bsa/title1/parta-preschool.asp>

### **Title I, Part A Preschool State Contact**

Anke Toth, Program Specialist  
Phone: (850) 245-0752  
Fax: (850) 245-0683

Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)  
Bureau of Federal Educational Programs  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 348  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

### **Head Start Collaboration Office**

[www.floridaheadstart.org](http://www.floridaheadstart.org)

### **Office of Early Learning**

<http://www.fl DOE.org/earlylearning/>

### **School District Title I, Part A Preschool Contacts**

<https://app1.fl DOE.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/bpsDirectory/directory.aspx>