



Bamberg County
School District
Title I Parent and Family
Handbook

2023-2024

About Title I

Title I is a federally-funded program designed to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education, and to reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. Title I resources are distributed to schools with the greatest need and in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction. The total amount of the 2023-2024 award for Bamberg County School District is \$1,202,031.65

Bamberg County School District does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, marital status, disabilities, national origin or ancestry. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX or Section 504, Affirmative Action, and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be referred to:

Superintendent Dottie Brown
Bamberg County School District
62 S Holly Ave
Denmark, SC 29042

Questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding Title I programs may be directed to:

Mallie Shaw, Federal Programs Coordinator
62 S Holly Ave
Denmark, SC 29042
803.793.3346
mshaw@bambergschools.org

If you require special accommodations or need assistance with this document, please notify the district office at 803.793.3346

Parents and Families Right to Know Teacher Qualifications

Parents and families have the right to request the qualifications, including education, certification, and experience of the teachers instructing their children and of the qualifications of the paraprofessionals (teacher's aides) who work with their children. If you are interested in this information, please contact your school's principal.

Parents and Families Right to Request Information Regarding State/Local Assessments

Parents and families have the right to request information about state and local policies regarding student participation in required state and/or local assessments.

District/School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Family Compact

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy provides the means for schools to work with parents and families to review and improve parent and family programs and describes how parents and families can participate in planning these programs. The School-Family Compact outlines how families, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The Compact also describes the ways the school and families will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. Title I schools in the district will be sending home additional information regarding their policies and compacts by early September.

Family Information and Resources

Please check with your student's school office regarding family information resource materials. Title I schools in the district partner with community organizations such as First Steps to provide additional resources to families.

Home/School Connection

Staff members are trained in understanding the value of working as partners with families. Family nights will be planned to build ties between home and school. In-service training, conferences, workshops, etc. will provide assistance to staff for ways to reach out and communicate effectively with families as equal partners.

Regular Opportunities for Parent/Family Meetings

Title I schools in the district strive to offer regular opportunities for parents and families to meet regarding school and the district's Title I plans and activities. An annual Parent/Family Meeting is held at the start of the school year at each school to provide additional information and receive family input. Families also have the right to request a Title I meeting at any time. A meeting may be requested by contacting your school principal or the district Title I Coordinator, Mallie Shaw.

Bamberg County School District Title I Family Suggestion Policy

Suggestions from families and community members are encouraged and all suggestions will receive a response. You may contact your school principal directly to make suggestions.

Additionally, you may submit suggestions to the district's Federal Programs Director, Mallie Shaw. Mrs. Shaw can be reached at 803.793.3346 or mshaw@bambergschools.org

TITLE I COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A parent, family member, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal ESEA funds and is unable to resolve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent.

Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation (including inter-district disputes), and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth may initiate the dispute resolution process directly at the school they choose, as well as at the district or district's homeless liaison's office. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. Students should be provided with all services for which they are eligible while disputes are resolved.

The superintendent will investigate, within one week, the circumstances of the complaint and render a decision within two weeks after receipt of the complaint and will notify the complainant of the decision in writing.

The complainant will be allowed one week to react to the decision before it becomes final.

The complainant will either accept or disagree with the decision and will provide such acknowledgment in writing, addressed to the district superintendent.

If the issue is not resolved with the superintendent, the complaint will be forwarded to the district's Board of Education for further review. The parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the district's decision including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision. Unresolved complaints may be forwarded by the stakeholder to the South Carolina Department of Education for review, Attention Birley Wright, McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Suite 1114-E, Columbia, SC 29201-3799, 803 734-3215 office, 803 734-3043 fax, Toll Free 1-888-565-7261, or by email at: bwright@ed.sc.gov.

Title I Project Year Timeline:

April/May/June—Project planning for the upcoming program/school year.

June 30—Submission of Title I project plan to South Carolina Department of Education for approval.

August/September: Start of new school year; Annual Title I Family Meeting.

September—Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact sent home to families.

October/November—Title I parent/family information meetings held.

Ongoing throughout the school year: Activities outlined in the Title I project.

March/April—Parent and Family Engagement Participation/Satisfaction Surveys sent home.

State Testing Timeline:

South Carolina requires a number of standardized tests for elementary, middle, and high school students.

These include the KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) administered to 5K students during the first 45 days of the school year.

Students in 4K will take myIGDIS during the first 45 days of school.

Second grade students take the Riverside Iowa Assessments and the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAt), usually in October to determine eligibility for the State Gifted and Talented program.

SCReady testing for grades 3-6 is done online during the last 20 days of the school year.

Students identified as Multi-Lingual Learners (MLL's) take the WIDA ACCESS assessment beginning in February of each year.

Students taking Algebra 1, Biology 1, English 2, or United States History and the Constitution will take the EOCEP exam at the end of the semester in which they complete the class. This exam counts for 20% of the student's final grade in the course.

Tenth grade students will be able to take the PSAT in October.

Current 12th graders may take the WIN Career Assessment during the Fall or Spring, and current 11th graders will take the WIN Career Assessment during the Spring.

If Bamberg County School District is selected for NAEP testing for any given school year that test will occur between the end of January and the beginning of March. This test is only given to 4th, 8th, or 12th grade students.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Accountability:

The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in December of 2015, known as the 'Every Student Succeeds Act', or ESSA, will bring about a change in the South Carolina state and federal school accountability system.

The new accountability system measures schools in two main areas: Academic Achievement and College and Career Readiness. State school report card ratings will be provided in the Fall by the S.C. Education Oversight Committee.