

Welcome to Walkerton Elementary Title I!

Schoolwide Title I Building and Programs

NEW! Walkerton Elementary is now classified as a Schoolwide Title I building. This classification is the result of a year-long application that involved a Comprehensive Needs Assessment examining how to best help our students. WES was approved in June 2019 as a Schoolwide building.

What is Schoolwide Title I?

Schoolwide Title I will serve all children in our school with a focus on our primary K-3rd grade reading. All staff, resources, and classes are part of the overall Schoolwide program. The purpose is to promote higher levels of academic achievement in reading for all students, especially those students most in need of support. This purpose is achieved through high quality instruction and methods that are based on the use of scientifically based research; strategies and methods to improve teacher quality and professional development; and use of funds to benefit all students.

What does this look like at WES?

Title I funds provide a half-time Title I director and five instructional aides provided by the Title I federal grant. This additional staff allows for additional help in the classrooms particularly during reading instructional blocks. There are small group opportunities to assist students most in need of a boost. In the past, these students had to be identified as Title I and their parents notified that the children were participating. With our new Schoolwide status, ALL students are considered Title I eligible. This is exciting, because that means ALL students may receive extra help at any time from our additional staff with the primary focus in grades K-3. Our Title I teacher and the classroom teachers make decisions on the students in need of assistance and the groups may be fluid and will change as needs change. ANY student in need may receive assistance from help in daily reading centers to a one on one session, a week-long skill group or a longer duration group. Individual notification of parents will now be unnecessary.

Our Title I teacher works with classroom teachers to assist with reading plans for students and to provide professional development in areas deemed necessary to increase our knowledge base and to grow our toolhouse of strategies for students. The PD opportunities last year included grade level meetings, data examination, outside trainings, implementation of research-based programs, professional coaching visits, conferences, and professional book studies.

How is Title I funded?

Funding for our program is based on the percentage of free and reduced lunches in our school population. We encourage families to apply for free/reduced lunch even if you are unsure if your family would qualify. Forms and help may be picked up in the school office.

Highly Qualified Staff:

All WES teachers and Title I paraprofessionals are highly qualified. If a member of our teaching staff is still working on the highly qualified status, the parents of those students will be notified by our principal. As a parent, you have the right at any time to request the professional qualifications of your child's teachers.

Parent Involvement:

Parent Involvement is an important component of our Title I program. Our Title I staff strives to help parents and children develop successful reading habits at school and at home. We host an annual parent meeting, and our room is open for Open House and Parent Teacher conference nights. Parents are encouraged to attend Title I events, read with their children daily, and communicate with teachers regularly. Last year, we had many book giveaways, several schoolwide reading events (One School One Book (Wonder), Read Across America book banners), and we had four well-attended, fun Family Night events. With our new Schoolwide status, we are working on new participation events for families and may sponsor reading activities at school or PTA events. We hope to continue events to involve

all grade levels (This year....March (Reading) Madness and Read Across America!). Your suggestions and help are always welcome!

In addition, Walkerton Elementary has a School Improvement Committee and a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee. We utilize parents to regularly evaluate the impact of the programs on student achievement and update the plan as necessary (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, 20 USC. § 6314). This involves examining outcomes and implementation data to determine whether the academic achievement of all students—particularly of low-achieving students—has improved, whether the goals and objectives were achieved, and if the plan is still appropriate as written.

Finally, we have an annual committee to work on and revise our Title I policies. We evaluate our program and continue to make adjustments and improvements. We strongly encourage and welcome all interested parents to participate in these areas with us.

Your interest and participation is welcome. Please contact me at any time with questions, to make suggestions, participate in planning events, or to assist in policy evaluation and revision. I look forward to working with you.

Amy Weiss

Title I Director
aweiss@jgsc.k12.in.us

