

Welcome to Walkerton Elementary Title I!

Schoolwide Title I Building and Programs

Walkerton Elementary is 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 serves 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. We work toward that purpose with 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 Title I Director and four instructional aides provided by the Title I federal grant. This additional staff allows for supplemental 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, students were specifically identified as Title I and their parents notified that the children were participating. With our 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 in previous years 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, and even though our students currently receive free lunch. 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. In a typical year, we host an annual parent meeting, and our room is open for Open House and Parent Teacher conference nights.

We love to host Title I Family Literacy Nights! We are hopeful we may get to schedule these again soon. Parents are encouraged to participate in these Title I

events with their children, read with their children daily, and communicate with teachers regularly. 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

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