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Title I is a federal program that provides opportunities for the children served to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards.

Title I resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs.

Title I provides greater decision-making authority and flexibility within the schools and for teachers. However, greater responsibility for student performance is the exchange for this flexibility.

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Aiken County Public Schools provides a high-quality curriculum fully aligned with South Carolina Academic Standards. This curriculum has been approved by the South Carolina Board of Education and adopted by the Aiken County Board of Education.

Textbooks used in the classrooms are subject to a review by the Instructional Materials Advisory Council appointed by the State Board of Education.

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The school district is continually monitoring the implementation of its Title I plan and welcomes input from parents regarding its current and future plans. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the District's Title I plan, please contact Kristy Cansler, Director of Federal Programs.

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As a parent, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher is properly licensed to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and
- the teacher's certification area.

If you would like to receive this information, please contact Human Resources at 641-2464.

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The State Department of Education has the authority to hear complaints and appeals regarding certain federal programs and requires school districts to distribute the following information concerning the South Carolina Department of Education's complaint resolution procedures:

Organizations or individuals may file a complaint that applies to Title I within thirty days of receiving the decision by the school district or group of districts.

Complaints and appeals must be made in writing and they must contain a statement indicating the violation, the facts on which the statement is based, and the specific requirement of law or regulation allegedly violated. Complaints and appeals must be filed with the State Superintendent of Education at the S.C. Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

The SDE will confirm receipt of the complaint within ten business days and will conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the complaint. The Deputy Superintendent will issue a final decision regarding the complaint within 60 days, except under exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension.

The final decision of the SDE may be appealed to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Education.

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The Title I legislation requires school districts to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. The parent and family engagement activities listed below are included in the district's Title I plan. This plan was jointly developed by the members of the district's Title I Planning Team.

Disseminate Title I information to parents in an understandable format

Provide parent resource information to schools for the purpose of improving student academic achievement and school performance

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The distribution of Title I funds to a school is based upon the number of students in the school who qualify as Pupils in Poverty. For the 2022-2023 school year, Aiken County Public Schools allocated approximately 5.7 million dollars to thirty-two public schools. These resources were distributed to schools where needs are the greatest and in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction.

The portion of Title I funds not allocated to schools is expended on district-wide Title I activities to assist in improving the instructional program in all Title I schools and to ensure that the schools and the district continue to be in compliance with Title I regulations. If you have questions regarding the Title I Plan for district-wide activities, please contact Kristy Cansler, Director of Federal Programs.

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The Title I legislation includes provisions for all children to meet the state's proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement by the end of the 2022-2023 school year. To assist in reaching this goal, the activities listed below are included in the District's Title I plan, which was jointly developed by the members of the district's Title I planning team.

- Employ Title I coordinators to assist schools with fulfilling program planning, implementation, and Title I legislative requirements
- Provide eight student service workers to serve as liaisons between the home and school
- Provide funds for homeless and foster care students
- Provide supplies for students and family engagement in Freedman Early Learning Center
- Provide reading interventionists in the highest poverty elementary schools to serve the most struggling readers
- Provide summer learning programs for students based on academic need

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In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school district receiving Title I, Part A funds jointly develops with and distrib-