

Parents Right to Know

Parental Involvement, Title I Part A: Non-Regulatory Guidance, April 2004

B-5. What information about LEA and school performance must an SEA disseminate to parents?

State report cards must include information related to assessments, accountability, and teacher quality, and must include data from all LEAs in the State. A description of each of the data elements (assessments, accountability, teacher quality) for State report cards is included in the Report Cards, Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/reportcardsguidance.doc>.] The information in the report cards must be in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, “to the extent practicable,” in a language that parents understand. [Section 1111(h)(1)(B)(ii), ESEA.]

B-6. What information about individual student academic assessment must SEAs provide to parents?

A central requirement of the NCLB Act is that SEAs, in consultation with LEAs, must implement a set of high-quality, yearly student academic assessments that include, at a minimum, academic assessments in mathematics, reading or language arts, and (beginning with school year 2007-08) science. As a part of this assessment system, SEAs must produce individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports that allow parents, teachers, and principals to understand and address the specific academic needs of each student, and that include information regarding achievement on academic assessments aligned with each State’s academic achievement standards. SEAs must provide these reports to parents, teachers, and principals of all public schools as soon as possible after the assessments are given. The information must be provided to parents in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request (see A-8 and A-10) and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand (see A-9 and A-10). [Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(xii), ESEA.]

B-7. What are an SEA’s responsibilities for reviewing and disseminating information about the progress of an LEA’s parental involvement activities?

As a part of its annual yearly progress review of each LEA receiving Title I, Part A funds, the SEA must determine if each LEA is, among other things, carrying out its responsibilities under section 1118 with respect to parental involvement. [Section 1116(c)(1)(A), ESEA.]

The SEA must publicize and disseminate the results of this review to its LEAs, teachers and other staff, parents, students, and the community. [Section 1116(c)(1)(B), ESEA.]

C-6. What information must LEAs provide parents about the teachers and paraprofessionals who work with their children?

At the beginning of each school year, LEAs must inform parents of each student attending a Title I, Part A school of their right to request information about the professional qualifications of both the teachers and the paraprofessionals who teach and work with their children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, “to the extent practicable,” in a language that parents understand. [See A-8, A-9 and A-10 for additional information on communicating with parents; Appendix B for a list of the key notification requirements; and for information on paraprofessionals in Title I, Part A programs, see the Title I Paraprofessionals Non-Regulatory Guidance at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/paraguidance.pdf>.] *(Section 1111(h)(6) and (C), ESEA, Sections 200.61 (a)(1) and (2) of the Title I Regulations.)*

C-7. What information must LEAs provide to parents in the LEA report card about the performance of their child’s school to assist parents in making decisions about their children’s education?

Similar to State report cards, LEA report cards must include information related to the data elements (assessment, accountability, and teacher quality) as it applies to the LEA as a whole and as it applies to each school served by the LEA. Individual school report cards are not required, but information about each school must be included in the LEA report card. Example charts with all the required assessment data elements at the LEA and school level are provided in Tables 4 and 5 of the Report Cards, Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/reportcardsguidance.doc>.] The information in the report cards must be in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, “to the extent practicable,” in a language that parents understand. *[Section 1111(h)(2) and (E), ESEA.]*

D-3. What information do the parents’ “right-to-know” provisions require schools to provide parents about the qualifications of teachers of their children who are not highly qualified?

Title I, Part A schools must give each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified. *[Section 1111(h)(6)(B)(ii), ESEA.]* The term “highly qualified” for this purpose is defined in section 200.56 of the Title I regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71730, December 2, 2002), available at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2002-4/120202a.html>.]