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Dear Palisades Park Families:

The Palisades Park is proud to be Schoolwide District. Please take a moment to read about this important upgrade to the Title I Program.

What is Schoolwide Program?

A schoolwide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to ensure that all students, particularly those who are low-achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on State academic achievement standards. A schoolwide program uses its Title allocation to upgrade the entire educational program of the school in order to raise academic achievement for ALL students at the school. No longer are students or teachers labeled "Title I," but instead all students and all the teachers at the school use Title I dollars to improve the school's entire academic program. A schoolwide program is built upon schoolwide reform strategies rather than separate, add-on services. This schoolwide reform strategy requires that a school – Conducts a comprehensive needs assessment; Identify and commit to specific goals and strategies that address those needs; Create a comprehensive plan; and Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the schoolwide program and revise the plan as necessary.

Why "Go" Schoolwide?

For the lowest achieving students in the most impoverished schools to meet high standards, their entire instructional program, not just a separate Title I program, must be substantially improved. When an entire school is the target of change, schools serving the most disadvantaged youth can achieve success.

Common Schoolwide Questions

Why is it beneficial to go "schoolwide"? The key component of schoolwide programming is flexibility. Technically, the sky is the limit in schoolwide planning. The requirements is that whatever you do, it is an activity that will help you reach your schoolwide goal, and all schoolwide goals must be identified from your comprehensive needs assessment.

Does a schoolwide school get a larger Title I allocation?

No. The Title I allocation is based on a formula using December's Free and Reduced Lunch count. As a schoolwide program you do, however, have much more flexibility on how you can spend your Title I money. Schoolwide programs also have the option of combining their federal Title funds into a schoolwide pot so there might in that way be more money to use to work towards schoolwide goals.

Will the needs of individual children be overlooked in schoolwide programs?

No. The school is held accountable for helping all children in a schoolwide program to achieve. Research evidence indicates that it is impossible to meet the needs of students in very high poverty schools unless the entire school program is changed. Who is responsible for maintain the schoolwide program? In targeted assistance programs, Title I teachers have a long list of requirements that they must follow. Schoolwide programming also involves a number of requirements. However, these requirements should in no way be the responsibility of one teacher at the school (unless he/she is paid as a coordinator and given time for this responsibility). Schoolwide programming is the responsibility of all school staff. Please remember the intent of schoolwide programming. The key issue in developing a schoolwide plan is to understand that the process entails far more than simply re-allocating Title I funds: "Going Schoolwide" is not just about Title I, it's about educational reform. Schoolwide programs are not simply add-on services or replication of standard models; they are planned adaptations of proven programs, changed to meet local conditions and traditions.

Comparing Targeted Assistance to Schoolwide

	Targeted Assistance	Schoolwide
Eligibility	A school is eligible for a targeted assistance Title I program if it serves an eligible Title I school attendance area.	A school is eligible to become a Title I schoolwide program if it has a poverty level of at least 40% and it is receiving Title I funding.
Allowable Expenditures	A targeted assistance school uses Title I funds to support programs for eligible children, i.e., children who are failing, or at risk of failing, to meet the state's standards.	A schoolwide program uses Title I funds to upgrade the entire educational program of the school. Title I funds can be used to serve all children.
Student Selection	A targeted assistance school is required to identify participants in the Title I program using educationally related, objective, and uniformly applied criteria.	A schoolwide program is not required to identify particular children as eligible for Title I services.
Responsibilities	The administrators and the Title I teachers who are paid with the Title I funds are responsible for making sure that regulations are met.	NO comparable provision because there are no distinction between staff they may be paid with Title I funds and those who are not. All staff supports the schoolwide project. There is no one labeled at "Title I Teacher."
Student Services	A targeted assistance school must use its Title I funds only to supplement and in no case supplant	A schoolwide program may use Title I funds only to supplement the amount of funds that would

	the amount of funds that, in the absence of Title I funds, would be made available from non-federal funds.	otherwise be available from non-federal sources for the school. A schoolwide program, however, is not required to provide supplement services to particular children (a schoolwide program may use Title I funds to serve any and all children in the school).
Annual Review	A targeted assistance school must review, on an ongoing basis, the progress of participating children and revised the Title I program as necessary to help Title I students meet the State's standards.	A schoolwide program must review the progress of its schoolwide plan on an ongoing basis. The plan must be reviewed and revised in order to help ALL children at the school meet the State's standards.

Parent Involvement	Targeted assistance schools must comply with Title I requirements for parent involvement.	Schoolwide schools must comply with Title I requirements for parent involvement.
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