

Title 1 FAQ's

What is Title 1?

The Minnesota Department of Education's document titled "A Parent/Guardian's Guide to School", includes the following description of Title 1 and Intervention Services...

Title I and Intervention Services

Children who need extra help in learning to read or do math are eligible for additional support through a special federal program called Title I. Title I is different in each district and school. Students in Title I may receive extra reading or math help from a specialized teacher who comes into or pulls children out of the regular classroom. If your child is eligible for Title I services, the school will send home a document called a "Parent Compact" (Partnership Agreement). Children who receive English support services are also eligible for Title I services if they meet qualifications for each type of service.

Information specific to Title 1 at Aspen Academy is available on the Aspen website, go to: Current Families, Resources, Title 1.

How is a scholar determined eligible for Title 1 services?

A student is determined eligible for Title 1 based on a convergence of educational assessment data indicating a student's need for additional reading or math help. The educational assessment data comes from standardized and diagnostic assessments as well as curriculum progress assessments. Title 1 services are free to the scholar. Title 1 usually focuses on students in early grades using a prevention through early intervention approach.

Once a student is found eligible for Title 1 then what happens?

Title 1 services are optional. The school will send a letter to the scholar's caregiver stating the child's eligibility for services. Caregivers do not have to provide written consent in response to the letter, rather services will automatically start per the start date included in the letter.

The school will send a "Partnership Agreement" to each scholar's caregiver. The agreement requests a collaborative commitment between the caregiver, Title 1 staff and the homeroom teacher to support the scholar in various ways.

Please read the Partnership Agreement, discuss and sign it with the scholar, and return it to school.

Please e-mail the Title 1 coordinator if you do NOT wish to have your scholar(s) receive Title 1 services.

When will my scholar receive Title 1 services?

If caregivers agree to having their scholar participate in Title 1 services, then the scholar will begin receiving services per the date stated in the letter. Most services include 3 - 5 sessions per week for 20 - 30 minutes and occur during the school day. Schedules vary depending on staffing, student need and grade level schedules.

What are Title 1 intervention services at Aspen?

Early Literacy: Scholars in kindergarten receive services as pairs or small groups, focused on phonological awareness (manipulating sounds in words), and phonics (letter/sound correspondence). Services are 4-5 days per week for 20 minute sessions.

Reading: At Aspen Academy, the core reading curriculum used by classroom teachers is called Being a Reader by the Center for the Collaborative Classroom. SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Sight Words) is the name of the intensive version of Being a Reader, also published by the Center for Collaborative Classroom. Aspen uses SIPPS with students in Title 1. Check the Title 1 page of the resources section of the Aspen website for more information.

SIPPS includes a placement test, and the results are used to determine instructional groupings and placement of students within the various SIPPS levels. Both Being a Reader and SIPPS have mastery tests that periodically check student progress. Based on results, re-teaching, supplemental practice, or moving students to different groups/ levels may occur.

Math: At Aspen Academy, the core math curriculum is Math in Focus, Singapore Math. Number Worlds is the name of the intervention math curriculum used by Title 1. Title 1 math also uses math interventions that are recommended by the FASTBridge assessment/intervention software.

Check the Title 1 page of the resources section of the Aspen website for more information about Number Worlds.

Number Worlds includes a placement test, and results are used to determine instructional groupings and placement of students within the curriculum. Number Worlds uses physical and virtual manipulatives, games, and activities to provide students with concrete experiences applying and practicing math concepts.

When do Title 1 services end for a student?

Title 1 services end when a convergence of educational assessment data indicates the student's reading or math skills no longer indicate a need for extra help, or the scholar has advanced to a grade level that does not provide Title 1.

I'm a caregiver for a student in Title1, what is the best way for me to check my student's progress?

Please start by contacting your scholar's classroom teacher. Classroom teachers and Title 1 staff are happy to share the information they have about a scholar's progress. Title 1 staff collect weekly or bi-weekly progress monitoring assessment data that is displayed on a graph. Progress Reports that include progress graphs, are provided quarterly to caregivers with scholars receiving Title 1. During conferences, Title 1 staff attend as many teacher/caregiver meetings as possible to share student progress. We are also willing to arrange times to visit with caregivers as requested.