



The Parent Connector

TITLE I & DEES NEWSLETTER



WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"In Pursuit of Excellence"

February - March
2015

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 4 - Progress Reports
- 16 - Holiday—President's Day
- 17-21 - Spring Intercession

MARCH

- 10 - End of Q3
- 11 - Start of Q4
- 17 - Report Cards Issued
- 19 - Title I/CLIP/FLP Meeting
- 7 - Report Cards Issued - Q2

APRIL

- 3-10 - Spring Break

Title I CLIP/FLP Program Meeting

March 19, 2015

9:00-11:30 AM at WCSD BOE

Title I is a federally funded program for elementary, middle and high schools. Through this program, the government provides financial assistance to school districts based on family income at each school. The Title I Program is designed to ensure that all participating children have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education while providing an enriched and accelerated educational program.

CLIP is a comprehensive district strategic plan reflecting the district goals, identifying resources and coordinating programs to meet the needs of all students.

FLP is an intervention program for the Title I Focus School (HES). The program provides tutorial instruction support for eligible students and ongoing professional development for staff.

ALL school district parents and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide their input.

Is Your Child STRUGGLING IN SCHOOL?

School is one of the most important things in a child's life. It is where they learn, build social connections, and gain important life skills. School should also be a place that your student is happy to attend. Even if they do not come home eager to recount all of the details of their day or they still require multiple wake-up calls before finally rolling out of bed in the morning - their general attitude towards school should still be a positive one. However, it is rare for a child to go from kindergarten to 12th grade without experiencing some sort of growing pains. When your child displays changes in behavior such as becoming unmotivated, withdrawn, or rebellious, it can be a sign that they are struggling academically, socially, or emotionally at school.

As a parent, it is important to monitor your student's temperament towards school and decipher when there could be a potential problem. Trust your gut and don't brush off legitimate warning signs as a 'phase'. Often parents are convinced that their child will 'grow out of it' when in fact their parental attention is needed.

If your child, who was once an A or B student, suddenly begins to bring home C's

and D's, that is a warning sign that you should not ignore. In the event your child is struggling academically, their teacher is your first and best line of defense. Contact them to schedule a meeting to discuss a plan of action for getting your student back on track, and be sure to ask for any materials that you can utilize at home to build upon your child's skills. Educators are experts, and reaching out and voicing your concerns enables them to guide you and your child toward the best course of action.

For more ideas and insight on how to deal with your child's academic, social, and emotional development, visit www.parenttoolkit.com for growth charts that you can use to ensure your child is on the right track. (Excerpt is from GADOE Parent Engagement Newsletter, Winter 2014. To see the whole article, please visit www.gadoe.org.)

ATTENTION

2014-15 PARENT INVOLVEMENT SURVEY

Please fill out this survey as your input is vital to crafting the annual District Parent Involvement Plan.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/8JN57T5

Did You Know?

McKinney-Vento Act

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

1. In a shelter,
2. In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative, adequate accommodation.
3. In a car, park or abandoned building or bus or train station.
4. Doubled up with other people due to the loss of housing or economic hardship

.....your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal **McKinney-Vento Act**. If you believe your children may be eligible, contact **Gina Meadows, Homeless Liaison at (770) 266-4510** to find out what services and supports may be available.

School-wide Title I Schools in Walton County School System are: Atha Road Elementary, Harmony Elementary, Carver Middle School, Loganville Elementary, Monroe Area High School, Monroe Elementary, Walker Park Elementary, Walnut Grove Elementary, Walnut Grove High School, and Youth Middle School. Targeted Assistance School in Walton County: Loganville Middle School.

The Walton County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission to its programs, services or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. For additional information or referral to the appropriate system coordinator, contact the system coordinator: Wilma Widmer at 200 Double Springs Church Road, Monroe, Ga. 30656, or at 770-266-4410.

Information and Resources for Parents

The Georgia Department of Education Parent Engagement Program provides information for parents on various topics to increase parent engagement and as a result improve student achievement. Here are the available resources and materials:

General Parent Information

(English only)

- ◆ Georgia Milestones Assessment System
- ◆ Georgia Student Growth Model
- ◆ Parent Power Book
- ◆ School Transition
- ◆ Common Core Georgia Performance Standards Videos

Parent Materials

(Available in English and Spanish)

- ◆ A Parent's Guide to Title I ESEA
- ◆ FAQ ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- ◆ CCGPS Brochure
- ◆ CCGPS Parent Guides (K-12)
- ◆ Parent's Guide to New Tests in GA

To access these resources and learn more about how you can become more engaged with your child's education, please visit: <http://www.gadoe.org/SchoolImprovement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Engagement-Program.aspx>

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 2014 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) for WCSD and schools is now online at <http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2014/ccrpi2014.aspx>
- Access Testing for ESOL students: January 20 - March 3.
- AP exams: May 4 - 15 (See calendar for specific dates for each course.)
- To stay current about all of the tests your child will be required to take, you can access the District Assessment Calendar here: <http://www.walton.k12.ga.us/Portals/0/Documents/Testing/AssessmentCalendarFY15.pdf>

District Parent Coordinators

Donna Hawk: ARES, HES, MES, WES, CMS 770-266-4530 donna.hawk@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I

Kathy Ellington: WGES, YMS, MAHS, WGHS 770-207-3107 katherine.ellington@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I

Tonya McCullohs: LES, LMS 770-266-4532 tonya.mccullohs@walton.k12.ga.us - Title I & DEES Parent Mentor



DEES NEWS

Department of Education for Exceptional Students

- February 7:** Spaghetti Supper (Sp Olympics) 4:00 - 7:30 @ Loganville Baptist Church
- February 11:** Navigator Team Meeting 11:00 - 1:00 @ BOE Annex
- February 28:** 2015 Conference & Resource Expo - UGA Tate Center, Athens
- March 5:** Disability Day at the Capitol GA Capitol - Atlanta
- March 23-27:** Exceptional Children's Week - Various Activities - Schools
- March 25:** PEEP Screening 7:30 am - 12:30 pm @ MES
- March 27:** Local Special Olympic Games All day @ Monroe Area High School

Walton County Navigator Team Meetings - Everyone is invited. Help make a difference in the lives of all special needs families here in Walton County!

PEEP (Preschool Exceptional Education Program) Round-Up - If you or your doctor suspect that your 3-5 year old child has a disability, you may contact Melanie Cooksey at 770-266-4502 to schedule the next available time for the Round-Up on March 25.

- **NEGATT 2015 Conference & Resource Expo (Feb 28)** - Free conference for families, educators and community partners of individuals with disabilities. Attend conference sessions and visit the expo to get an orchestra of information and support in order to compose a symphony of success for your student with disabilities. The featured speaker will be Laura Nadine. Ms. Nadine is an award-winning violinist, composer, author, artist, film maker, and mother with Asperger's. Free lunch will be provided if you register on Event Brite by 2/14/15. (Visit Eventbrite.com & search "NEGATT". For more information: www.ne.gllrs.org.)

- **Exceptional Children's Week**

(March 23-27) - This is an annual event celebrating children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who serve them. This week is sponsored by the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**, the world's largest membership organization for special and gifted educators. The **Walton County Navigator Team** will be preparing "goody bags" for our teachers, para-pros and bus personnel who do such a wonderful job with our students.

- **Disability Day at the Capitol (March 5)** - A delegation of students, teachers and parents from WCSD will tour the Capitol, sit in on a legislative session and attend the rally. If you would like to follow us there, please contact Tonya McCullohs (770-266-4532) for more info.

For more information and resources, please visit the **DEES's** section on the WCSD's website: www.walton.k12.ga.us or contact the Parent Mentor:

Tonya McCullohs at 770-266-4532 or tonya.mccullohs@walton.k12.ga.us.