

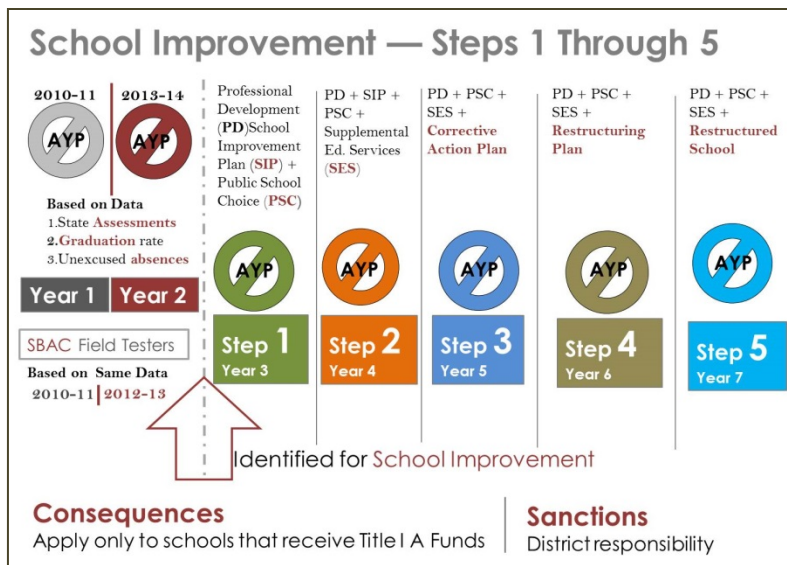


# Parents/Guardians Guide

## School Improvement & Public School Choice in Title I, Part A Programs

Your child's school receives funding through the federal Title I, Part A Program. These funds help to expand basic educational programs with services and interventions that support struggling learners. Title I, Part A is one of many programs governed by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or ESEA.

ESEA sets a standard for state, district and school accountability, and directs public schools that receive Title I, Part A funds to reach 100% proficiency: *all students reach state academic standards in math and reading*. Under ESEA, schools, whose students have taken the state assessments and have not met these standards—two years in a row—must begin a program of *improvement* in the next school year. 100% means just that. Even if one student does not reach standard in either math or reading, the school must enter improvement. There are five Steps to a school improvement program.



### Stay in Touch with Your School & District

Schools and districts apply the regulations around school improvement in ways that address the unique challenges and opportunities of student demographics and locality. This is why you should stay in close contact with your children's school.

Make sure you are clear on your options, specifically those around Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES). We explain SES in a companion brochure— *Parents' Guide Supplemental Educational Services & School Improvement*.

### Title I, Part A, School Improvement & Public School Choice (PSC)

Schools in improvement must meet specific requirements for communication with parents and guardians, and offer programs and services that support students who struggle to reach standard on state tests in math and reading.

Your child's school is now in a Step of improvement that calls for Public School Choice or PSC. This means that the district must offer parents or guardians the option to move their student to another public school not in improvement. At the start of the new school year, the district must send you information that talks about Public School Choice and explains how it works.

### Eligible Students

Public School Choice is an option for every student who attends a school **1)** in a Step of improvement, and **2)** funds added instruction and services through Title I, Part A. So, PSC provides an option you can consider once your student's home school enters improvement. Household income is not a factor.

### Transportation Free Until Your School Exits Improvement

Public School Choice is free. Districts pay for transportation to another school out of Title I, Part A Program funds—as long as your neighborhood school remains in a Step of improvement. Once transferred, your student can remain in the new school even if your neighborhood school makes sufficient progress for 2 years in a row and is no longer in a Step of improvement. However, at that point, you will have to provide transportation to the new school.



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### No Schools Available for Public School Choice

If there are no schools in your child's district, or in surrounding districts, able to accept PSC students, the district must notify you that:

1. There are no alternative schools.
2. School and district are taking specific measures designed to address the problem of struggling learners.

The communications and notifications you receive must provide contacts—school and district—you can call for more information or to ask questions.

### Expect This Information From Your District

These notifications must be clear and concise. You should be able to distinguish them from other information the school or district sends home that talks about school improvement.

- Explain what the school or district is doing to raise academic performance
- Explain how eligibility works for Public School Choice
- Explain that PSC services are free
- List which public school or schools are not in improvement and to which your student can transfer
- Provide information on the academic achievement of these schools
- Alert you to important dates, such as enrollment and the first day of school
- Give you the names and contact details of people who can answer questions and provide more information

Contact your school or district if you do not receive this information. OSPI publishes a list of Washington state school districts, <https://www.k12.wa.us/Maps/SDmainmap.aspx>,

Find your public school here on the National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>.

### State Report Card

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction—Washington's education agency—publishes a State Report Card online, <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?year=2012-13>. Use this website to find important information about your school and district, such as the results of state testing, enrollment numbers, facts and figures about the teachers in your school and much more.

### Ask Us About School Improvement & Public School Choice in Title I, Part A Programs

Title I, Part A Office at OSPI, 360-725-6100, online at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Old Capitol Building, PO Box 47200

Olympia, WA 98504-7200

**U.S. Department of Education: 1-800-USA-LEARN (872-5327)**