

Kane Area Elementary School

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August 20, 2025

Dear Parents,

Kane Area Elementary School is a Schoolwide Title I School. The following information is being provided to you in an attempt to answer any questions about the program that you may have as a parent. Please feel free to contact my office at any time if you should have any additional questions.

What is a Title I Schoolwide program?

A Schoolwide program permits a school to use funds from Title I, Part A and other Federal education program funds and resources to upgrade the entire educational program of the school in order to raise academic achievement for all the students. This contrasts with a Title I targeted assistance program, through which Title I, Part A funds are used only for supplementary educational services for eligible children who are failing or are at risk of failing to meet state academic content standards.

Schoolwide programs have great latitude in determining how to spend their Title I, Part A funds. Schoolwide programs do not have to identify particular children as eligible for services or separately track federal dollars. Instead, Schoolwide programs can use their Title I, Part A funds in the manner they choose within federal guidelines, as long as they engage in reform strategies that increase the amount and quality of learning time and help provide a high-quality curriculum for all children, according to a comprehensive plan to help children meet the state's challenging academic content standards. Schoolwide programs serve all children in a school. All staff, resources, and classes are part of the overall Schoolwide program. The purpose is to generate high levels of academic achievement in core subject areas for all students, especially those students most in need.

Components of a School-wide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school is conducted.
- School-wide reform strategies provide opportunities for all children to meet the state's proficiency performance standards.
- Highly qualified staff members provide instruction.
- Professional development is conducted on a continual basis throughout the year.
- Activities are presented to increase parent involvement.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from preschool to elementary, from Elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Measures are taken to include teachers in the decisions regarding the use of assessments.
- Activities are conducted to ensure that students who experience difficulty mastering state standards will be provided with effective, timely, additional assistance.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parent and Family Engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. Parents are encouraged to become partners in helping their children achieve and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plan to its implementation and evaluation.

A strong connection between the home and the school is a key element in student success. Materials, strategies, and assistance from teachers are available to all parents within a Title I Schoolwide program. Opportunities for active parent participation include, but are not limited to, open houses, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, parent-teacher organizations, conferences, timely newsletters, and more.

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents should contact the school principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's parent and family engagement expenditures. If you would like to participate in the district and/or the school Title I planning team or make comments on the plan, please contact the school office.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact

Each Title I school is required to ask for input from parents regarding the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a school-parent compact. The school-parent compact can be found in the student agenda. The parent and family engagement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs. The School-Parent Compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. You are asked to read the School and District Parent and Family Engagement policies and the School-Parent Compact and give your suggestions or comments for revisions to the school principal. Changes will be made, when possible. Both of these documents can also be found on our website at www.kasd.net.

Description & Explanation of Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment, and Proficiency Levels Students Are Expected to Meet

Kane Area School District provides high-quality curriculum based on Pennsylvania's Curriculum Standards.

A variety of tests are administered to students to determine levels of proficiency. To monitor student progress throughout the year, student assessment may include:

- Assessments created by teachers and/or provided by textbooks.
- District assessments
- The Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) will be given annually to students in grades three through eight. These assessments will measure student performance based on state standards.
- Results of student assessment are presented at parent/teacher conferences, and by means of progress reports, report cards, etc.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, PDE no longer used Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to determine a school's designation. Instead, in accordance with the ESEA Flexibility Waiver, PDE uses four Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to designate the Title I school as Reward, Priority, or Focus schools. Currently, the four AMOs include: measuring test participation rate; graduation/attendance rate; closing the achievement gap for all students; and closing the achievement gap for the historically underperforming students. In addition, all public schools in the state now receive a School Performance Profile score based on 100 points. This score will be considered the school's academic performance score, and while not the criteria for determination of Reward, Priority or Focus status, it details student performance through scoring of multiple measures that define achievement. The School Performance Profile also includes supports to permit schools to access materials and resources to improve in defined areas related to achievement.

Parents' Right to Know

In January 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind act that was designed to ensure that all children have an opportunity to obtain a quality education.

Under this act, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct your child. If you would like to receive any of this information about your child's teacher(s) or paraprofessionals, you may contact the school office.

Please direct any questions about Title I to Mrs. Shannon Olson, Elementary Principal, 837-7555 x2201, solson@kasd.net or Mrs. Jeannine Kloss, Federal Program Coordinator, 837-9570, jkloss@kasd.net.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Olson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.