

ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE I, PART A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2026-2027 School Year

Audrielle Lynch-Ellen Bustin Elementary • SRU Elementary • Harlan Rowe Middle School

Purpose of Title I, Part A

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), provides federal financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families. The purpose of Title I is to help ensure that all children have a significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, high-quality education and to close educational achievement gaps. Title I supports students in meeting Pennsylvania's challenging academic standards through evidence-based instruction, intervention, professional learning, and meaningful parent and family engagement.

Athens Area School District Title I Program

Athens Area School District operates Title I, Part A programs at Audrielle Lynch-Ellen Bustin Elementary School, SRU Elementary School, and Harlan Rowe Middle School. These buildings operate Schoolwide Programs. In a Schoolwide Program, Title I resources may be used to improve the educational program of the entire school based on needs identified through the school's comprehensive needs assessment and Schoolwide Plan, with particular attention to students who are failing or at risk of failing to meet State academic standards.

Instruction, Intervention, and Student Support

Title I services are designed to strengthen the core instructional program and provide additional academic support based on student need. Classroom teachers, Title I reading specialists, intervention staff, and appropriately qualified paraprofessionals work collaboratively to provide differentiated instruction and targeted small-group support. Title I-funded services supplement and strengthen the educational opportunities available to students and are aligned with each school's Schoolwide Plan and identified needs.

Assessment and Progress Monitoring

The district uses multiple sources of data to identify student needs, monitor growth, and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction and intervention. Acadience Learning is administered in Kindergarten through Grade 5 at the beginning, middle, and end of the year, with progress monitoring provided at a frequency appropriate to student need. CKLA benchmarks and progress-monitoring measures are also used in the elementary literacy program. At the middle school level, the district uses grade-appropriate State and local assessment data and other measures identified in the Schoolwide Plan. Staff use assessment results to adjust instruction, determine intervention needs, and monitor student response to support.

Schoolwide Planning and Continuous Improvement

Each Title I Schoolwide Program maintains and annually reviews a Schoolwide Plan through Pennsylvania's Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal. The plan is based on a comprehensive needs assessment and is developed and reviewed with input from school staff, parents and family members, and other stakeholders. Student achievement, subgroup performance, attendance, local assessment results, and other relevant data are reviewed to identify needs, establish goals, select evidence-based strategies, and evaluate progress.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parents and family members are essential partners in the Title I program. Each Title I school holds an Annual Title I Meeting to explain the program, Title I requirements, and families' right to be involved. The district and schools jointly develop and annually review Parent and Family Engagement Policies with family input, and each school jointly develops a School-Parent-Student Compact describing shared responsibilities for student achievement. Families are invited to participate in surveys, focus groups, meetings, Schoolwide Plan review,

and decisions related to parent and family engagement activities and funds. Information is provided in an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language families can understand.

Family Access and Participation

The district and schools work to reduce barriers to family participation. Supports may include flexible meeting times, virtual or telephone participation, district translation services, translated documents upon request, PowerSchool translation features, on-site interpreters upon request, accessible meeting locations and formats, and, when needed and allowable, transportation and childcare. Title I schools also coordinate family engagement efforts with appropriate early childhood, community, Federal, State, and local programs.

Parent Right to Know and Staff Qualifications

At the beginning of each school year, families in Title I schools are notified of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and instructional paraprofessionals. The district ensures that staff working in Title I-supported programs meet applicable Pennsylvania certification and qualification requirements and provides required notification if a student is assigned to or taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification requirements.

Equitable Services for Eligible Nonpublic School Students

Athens Area School District conducts timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate nonpublic school officials regarding equitable Title I, Part A services for eligible nonpublic school students who reside in participating Title I attendance areas. Services are developed through consultation and are provided in accordance with federal equitable-services requirements.

Program Oversight and Monitoring

The district administers Title I, Part A funds through its annual Consolidated Application and maintains documentation demonstrating program implementation and compliance. District and school leaders review Title I activities, expenditures, student outcomes, parent and family engagement evidence, and required notices throughout the year. Documentation is maintained for federal-program monitoring, including policies, plans, meeting agendas and attendance records, distribution evidence, parent input, assessment and intervention records, and fiscal documentation.

Reviewed/Revised: August 2026