



September 27, 2021

Dear Parent, Guardian, Foster Care Giver or Adult Student:

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The ESSA builds upon the critical work states and local educational agencies (LEAs) have implemented over the last few years. The reauthorized law sets high standards and contains policies that will help prepare all students for success in college and future careers. It prioritizes excellence and equity and recognizes the importance of supporting great educators in our nation's schools

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Ohio has created a plan to better align our local, state and federal programs to help all students be successful. Guidance for this plan can be found at: education.ohio.gov

On May 29, 2012, the United States Department of Education (USDoE) granted the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) a waiver of several provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The purpose of this letter is to explain how parts of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Flexibility waiver under Title I, Part A of NCLB relate to your child's education.

Notice to Parents

Under Title I, Part A of NCLB, districts were required to notify parents if any of their schools or the district itself were identified for Improvement. This provision has been waived, and districts no longer are required to send a letter out to notify parents of School or District Improvement status. Public School Choice Under Title I, Part A of NCLB, districts were required to offer students attending schools identified to be in Improvement status the opportunity to attend another public school not so identified. Districts were required to provide or pay for the provision of transportation to the transfer school. This provision has been waived, and districts are no longer required to offer this option.

Students taking the Public School Choice option during the 2021-2022 school year are allowed to remain in the transfer school until they complete the highest grade in that school. However, the district is no longer responsible for providing or paying for the transportation.

The district must inform parents with students in all Title I served schools that they can request information about the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers, 1111(h). The district must give timely notice to parents of students in Title I served schools if their children have been taught, or have been assigned to be taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified. The district must also provide information to parents on the level of achievement of their children on each of

FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY EAST • 4480 REFUGEE RD. • COLUMBUS, OH 43232 • (614) 269-0150
FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY SOUTHWEST • 190 SOUTHWOOD AVE. • COLUMBUS, OH 43207 • (614) 545-2000
FOCUS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL • 4807 EVANSWOOD DR. • COLUMBUS, OH 43229 • (614) 310-0430

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the state academic assessments, 1111(h). Currently, all teachers assigned to your student are highly qualified.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

Under Title I, Part A of NCLB, districts were required to offer students attending schools identified for Improvement, Year 2 and higher the opportunity to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES), free tutoring services using external providers.

This provision has been waived, and districts no longer are required to offer SES.

Additional information concerning Ohio's ESEA Flexibility waiver application and other waiver provisions can be found on the ODE website (ODE Web Site Waiver Provisions) and the USDE's flexibility webpage (<http://www.education.ohio.gov/esea/flexibility>).

Equal Educational Opportunities Statement

All students attending Focus will have equal educational opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, age or disability, in all decisions affecting admissions; membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities; access to facilities, academic evaluations or any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity are based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity. For EEO Statement questions or concerns, contact the Title IX/504 Coordinator, Kathy Williams at 614-310-0430.

Free and Appropriate Public Education Without Discrimination

All students attending Focus will have equal educational opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, age or disability, in all decisions affecting admissions; membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs or activities; access to facilities, academic evaluations or any other aspect of school-sponsored activities. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity are based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

The board's policy of nondiscrimination extends to students, staff, job applicants, the general public and individuals with whom it does business and applies to race, color, national origin, citizenship status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age or disability.

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The board does not permit discriminatory practices and views harassment as a form of discrimination. Harassment is defined as intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation, by whatever means, of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Employees or students who engage in discrimination/harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action.

All persons associated with the school, including, but not limited to, the board, the administration, the staff and the students, are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sexual harassment. Any person engaging in sexual harassment while acting as a member of the school community is in violation of this policy.

For EEO Statement questions or concerns, contact: Title IX 504 Coordinator, Kathy Williams, (614) 269-0150 x2103

IDEA-Public Hearing

On October 14, 2021 a public hearing will be held in regard to IDEA Part B funds spending for special education. The meeting will be held at 4480 Refugee Road, Columbus, OH 43232 beginning at 9:30 AM in the second floor conference room. Public comment is welcome.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Williams, Executive Director, at (614) 269-0150 extension 2103 or kathy.williams@focuslearn.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Williams
Executive Director

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