

Fact Sheet

Baltimore County Public Schools

6901 N. Charles Street · Towson · MD · 21204

Title I Highly Qualified (HQ)

What are the federal requirements for HQ?

All teachers hired after the first day of the 2002-2003 school year, who teach in “core academic subjects,” must be “highly qualified.”

By the end of the 2005-2006 school year, all public school teachers (elementary and secondary) who teach in “core academics” must be “highly qualified” regardless of whether they are paid with Title I funds.

All paraprofessionals hired in Title I schools must be qualified by June 2006.

What are the “core academic subjects?”

- English
- Reading or Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Civics and Government
- Economics
- Geography
- Foreign Language
- Arts

What are the requirements for paraprofessionals/paraeducators?

High school diploma or GED and:

- Two years of college, or
- An associate’s degree.

Rigorous standard of quality on formal state or local assessment.

All paraprofessionals providing instructional services must work under the direct supervision and in close proximity to a “highly qualified” teacher.

How and when should my school notify the parents that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher?

Principals will provide the *Parents Right to Know* letter from the superintendent to the parent who requested the information via:

- U.S. Mail
- Connect-Ed message
- Notification in the school newsletter
- Post on the school's website

Principals must document the request for information they receive in response to the notifications.

The document may be found on the Title I intranet Website.

What is the process for providing timely notice in a letter to parents when their child has been assigned or taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher or substitute teacher who is not highly qualified?

The school has a parent involvement obligation amount that must be spent on parent involvement activities. The grant also requires funds be spent on student achievement.

These activities should build:

- parent capacity to assist in their children's education,
- parent-school communication, and
- parent-school and community partnerships.

What are my rights as a parent?

Parents are encouraged to:

- provide input on the development of the Parent Involvement Plan and Home-School Compact;
- provide input on how parent involvement funds should be spent;
- provide input on how school staff can work with parents as equal partners in their child's educational process;
- volunteer at their child's school; and
- participate in parent-teacher conferences.

What other resources are available to help me assist my child in his/her education?

Parents may access the following websites for additional resources:

Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Family and Community Engagement website: www.bcps.org/offices/dpd/pss.html