

Student Success in Title I Schools
A Midwest Clinic Presentation
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Forward:

For many years, Title I Schools have suffered from the labels of low performing, challenging student behaviors, poor teacher retention, and poor community/parental involvement. The challenge of being associated with Title I Schools, however, does not come from any of the aforementioned labels. The challenge lies in understanding how Title I works on the federal level and transferring those fundamental practices to our everyday teaching styles.

Title I Basics

What is Title I?

Simply put, Title I is a federal program where money is allocated for schools based on how many students receive free or reduced lunch.

The funds are to be used to help students who are low achieving or at risk of falling behind.

How is Title I status determined?

Your school or school district must have at least 40% of students receiving free or reduced lunch. It is optional to receive the funds if your number falls under 75%. If 75% or more of your student population qualify for free or reduced lunch, you must receive the funds.

How are Title I funds allocated?

The Title I funds are earmarked to help improve student success in their academic classes (as stated by the U.S. Department of Education). These funds are typically spent on curriculum improvement, instructional activities, parental involvement, counseling, and staff.

How does this affect my band program?

If you are a part of a school that receives Title I funds, you are required to adapt your teaching style in order to meet the same standards as core academic teachers who have access to Title I Funds.

So What's the Big Picture?

THE GOAL OF TITLE I IS TO PROVIDE A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD NO MATTER THEIR BACKGROUND.

Title I Breakdown

We have identified four components that successful Title 1 schools employ, and we have adapted these components to work within our program to ensure the same quality of education both academically and musically.

I. Let's Talk Finances

- a. Title I funds cannot and do not take the place of your schools current budget
- b. Title I funds cannot be used to fill in the monetary gap your school may or may not be facing
- c. Funds can be used for new personnel, computers, books, classroom supplies, and anything that will help the students achieve.

How does this affect our program?

- a. All three schools receive a district band budget
- b. Budget Presentation
- c. Highlight Areas of Growth

II. Academic Interventions

What does this look like?

- a. Reading/ Math Lab
- b. Tutorial after school
- c. Pulled from activity/elective classes multiple days a week for differing subjects

How does this affect our program?

- a. Increased absences
- b. Slow progress due to amount of students being pulled
- c. Behavior and/or performance problems due to students feeling disconnected from the rest of the class.

How do we work through these problems?

- a. Parental Involvement
- b. Tutoring for those falling behind before and after school
- c. Peer tutoring during class
- d. Additional personnel being utilized to fill in the gap

III. Instructional/Enrichment Activities

What does this look like?

- a. Summer/intercession programs
- b. Family involvement programs/activities
- c. Reward/Educational Outings

How does this relate to our program?

- a. Request college ensembles to tour at our schools
- b. Bring in professionals to do masterclasses and/or sectionals
- c. Award scholarships for summer camps to keep students engaged with music
- d. Host Concert Band Camp
- e. Increase Parent Involvement
- f. Produce end of the year final concert

IV. Growth Strategies

How does this affect our program?

- a. Missing multiple days leads to loss of information
- b. Title I offers the ability to provide transportation from Title I funded after school activities
- c. During school tutoring hampers ability to perform concerts off campus during the school day.

How do we work through these problems?

- a. Band director in elementary schools (all 7 of them) doing instrument petting zoo's throughout the year.
- b. Early scheduling of recruitment tours
- c. Christmas and end of the year concerts at middle and elementary level
- d. 8th Grade Band Night
- e. Schedule any performance opportunity that gets our program in the view of the clientele we wish to attract.

Closing

Being a Title 1 school, for us, does not garner the negative attention that some might try to give it. We have adopted the model used by our district's Title I Program to move our students in a positive direction. If you are a Title 1 school, inquire about the structure of your Title I Program. Don't let where the students come from or their resources determine their success. Advocate for your program, if you do not no one else will!