

# Question and Answer Sheet on Operating a Title I After School Program

## Guidelines for Targeted Assistance Title I Programs

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Q. If my school decides to operate an after-school program, do I, as the Title I teacher, need to be the instructor?

A. No, the district may hire any certified, highly qualified teacher to operate the Title I after-school program. However, if a different person is responsible for the after-school program, it is VERY important that a regular means of communication on student progress exists between the daily Title I instructor and the after-school program staff.

Q. Can the after-school program be open to all children at the school?

A. Title I cannot pay for Title I students to attend an after-school program if the district covers the cost of the other students who participate in the program. This would break the “supplement, not supplant” rule because in such a case, Title I students would not be receiving something extra that is not provided to other students. There are ways, however, of coordinating an after-school program.

- Students who are not identified for Title I services could be required to pay a fee if they would like to enroll. That fee could then cover some of the salary for the after-school instructor, as well as material costs and other expenses that arise.
- The district could cover the costs of providing a part-time after-school program that, for example, operates two days a week. All children would be invited to attend this program. The Title I after-school program could meet on two other days of the week, with Title I covering the complete costs of this part of the program.

Q. What CAN Title I funds pay for in an after-school program?

A. Title I funds could pay for all costs associated with a Title I after-school program, including salary costs, material costs, snacks, and transportation.

Q. What types of activities should occur in a Title I after-school program?

A. Because Title I is specifically about raising academic achievement, the focus of the program should be primarily academic in nature, focusing specifically on reading and math. After-school “clubs” which are focused more on providing interesting activities that keep students at the school and safe should not be the focus of a Title I-funded after-school program. On an incidental basis, the program could cover the costs of an atypical Title I event, such as a guest speaker who comes to share an art activity with students.

Q. If I decide to operate an after-school program for Title I students, does that mean I have to teach Title I all day and then, in addition, work extra hours to operate the after-school program?

A. No. As mentioned above, the school may hire another certified teacher to operate the after-school program. Or, if funding the program is an issue, a Title I teacher could work part-time during the school day and then part-time in the after-school program to total a full day of work. This, of course, is a district-level decision.

Q. Why should I consider operating an after-school program?

A. **#1. The research shows it works.**

In *Working for Children and Families: Safe and Smart After-School Programs*, Published by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, April 2000, the following information is described:

After-school programs show a...
Students in after-school programs have...
<i>Teachers report that students in after-school programs...</i>

**#2. School Accountability**

In addition, due to the enormous emphasis on school accountability and making “Adequate Yearly Progress” as defined in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titled “No Child Left Behind,” schools must be proactive in implementing measures that will help ensure that student achievement remains high. Schools do not want to find themselves identified for Program Improvement, and high-quality after-school programs are a research-proven way to raise student achievement.

Q. I am interested in starting an after school program for my Title I students. How do I get started?

A. First, you should talk to the Authorized Representative of the Title I program in your district to enlist his/her support. Next you will probably need to do a budget revision to assure that you have an adequate budget to cover the costs such a program would entail. It may also be helpful to talk to parents to determine how the program could best meet their needs—will, for example, transportation be a problem for rural students? There is a survey on the Title I website that may help you determine parent needs. The survey is on the Extended Day programming site and can be found under the link “Handouts Tanya’s Session at the 2001 Fall Conference.” The direct link to the survey is <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/aftrschl/handout.pdf>.

Q. [What other factors do I need to consider as I design my Title I after-school program?](#)

- A. Other important factors include:
- Transportation to and from the program
  - Snacks
  - Which Title I students will be served and when?
  - Attendance—will it be required?
  - Meeting times—will it be offered every day? Twice a week? Once a week per grade level?
  - Academics—what types of instruction/activities will be a part of the program
  - Salary

Q. [What resources exist for Title I after-school programs?](#)

- A. On the North Dakota Title I website, we offer many links that you may find useful as you design your after-school program. Of particular note are the results of the “Ideas Submitted for the After-School Idea Exchange” where Title I teachers from around North Dakota offer spectacular ideas for an after-school program. The direct link to this part of our web site is as follows:  
<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/resource/aftrschl/index.shtm>.

Q. [Are there other federal funds that I could use to support an after-school program?](#)

- A. Federal funds that could be used to support an after-school program include:
- Title I  
Remember that Title I funds can pay for an after-school program only if the program is just for Title I students. This program must be supplemental, above and beyond what other students have available.
  - Title IV
  - Title V
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - Title VI – Flexibility and Accountability

Q. [What if I work in a Title I schoolwide program? Do the rules for after-school programs funded with Title I change?](#)

- A. Yes. The rules for operating an after-school program if you are schoolwide are much more flexible. The focus of the program would be that it supports your schoolwide plan. For more information, contact Tanya Lunde Neumiller at the Title I office at (701) 328-4646 or by e-mail at [tlneumiller@state.nd.us](mailto:tlneumiller@state.nd.us).

Q. [Are there schools in North Dakota that are currently operating after-school programs?](#)

- A. Each of the following schools below has received 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant. These grants allow schools to implement full-scale after-school programs involving all students and the community. Persons from these schools may be excellent resources in recommending preparations for an after-school program.
- Fort Totten School District, Fort Totten, ND
  - Griggs County Central School District, Cooperstown, ND
  - Richland County Consortium, Wahpeton, ND
  - Dunseith Public School, Dunseith, ND
  - North Valley Vo-Tech Center, Grafton, ND
  - Grand Forks Public School District, Grand Forks, ND
  - Minot Public School District, Minot, ND