

YOUR CHILD *and* SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



The spirit behind the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), is to create a climate where every child can reach his or her full educational potential. ESEA is based on the philosophy that all children can learn. Putting the responsibility on the schools to find the best way to help them. Virginia's accountability system is called the Standards of Learning (SOL).

As a parent, you have important rights and responsibilities regarding your child's education.

THESE INCLUDE:

1. Understanding your school's efforts for improving academic achievement and how you can be involved.
2. Knowing when you can take advantage of additional educational options for your child.

(Please see reverse side for additional information)



VIRGINIA PIRC PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

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A project of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center



Here is what parents should know about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

SCHOOLS ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS

ESEA requires every state to set high standards for student academic achievement and to increase the number of students reaching those standards every year. To measure student progress, schools must test children in Math, English and Language Arts in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school. Science is tested in grades 4, 8, and 11. Each school must then show Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward state-determined targets for the whole school as well as for various sub-groups (minorities, students receiving special education, English Language Learners and students receiving free/reduced lunch) for each subject tested. Every year you should receive your child's School Report Card indicating results on the Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. These report cards will provide information about division and state performance. You will also receive an individual report on how your child performed for each SOL assessment taken, along with whether your child met the state's passing rate and how your child performed compared to other students in Virginia.

PARENTAL OPTIONS

In Virginia, some schools may offer services in differing order, but in general parents are given the following options when a school fails to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in any subject for two years in a row or longer:

Public School Choice. All parents in Title I Schools must be offered the choice to send their child to another school. Priority is given to the lowest-achieving, low-income students. The school district must pay for and provide transportation to the new school.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES). After the third consecutive year of missing AYP, schools must offer students free tutoring or other extra academic help in reading, writing, and/or mathematics. This extra help must be given outside the regular school day – before/after school, weekends, or during the summer. Eligible students must be enrolled in a Title I school and qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Your school division should send you a letter about how and where to sign up with SES providers.

HOW PARENTS FIT IN

Your child's school cannot do it alone. You as a parent are important to your child's success. Find out if your school has a PTA or other parent involvement initiatives then volunteer to help, if you can. Find out more about the Standards of Learning and use these resources to help your child at home. More information on SOLs: www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html To locate your school's report card: www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src.index.shtml

For more information about ESEA and parent rights, contact PEATC-VIRGINIA PIRC (see info on reverse side).