



Vision: Students Who Soar Like Eagles
Mission: To prepare each student for college/work/adulthood



**Every Student Succeeds Act
(ESSA)
Parent Information Booklet
2022 - 2023**

Dear Parent,

The Ozark City School System looks forward to another successful year working with your child. It is our goal to offer the highest quality educational experience that is possible for every student.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) is landmark legislation that has had a major impact on educational programs throughout the country. Ozark is no exception. We strive daily to remain in compliance with the requirements of the law.

This document is designed to provide information on the law that every parent should know. Some of the information applies to all parents and some of the information applies only if your child attends one of our schools that receive Title I funds to supplement the education program. Title I schools in Ozark include Harry N. Mixon Intermediate School, Joseph W. Lisenby Primary School, DA Smith Middle School and Carroll High School.

If you ever have any questions regarding the use of federal funds in the Ozark City school system, please feel free to contact the Office of Federal Programs at 334-774-5197.

We value your input and want to work closely with you during this school year regarding the education of your child. You are encouraged to take an active role in your child’s education by talking frequently with your child’s school, volunteering your time to assist the school with various activities, and communicating often with your child about what they are doing in school.

Sincerely,

Reeivice Girtman
Superintendent

Parents’ Right to request Information on a Teacher’s Qualifications

As a part of *Every Student Succeeds Act*, school systems are required to notify parents of children in schools receiving Title I funds of their right to request information on the professional qualifications of their child’s teacher(s). All teachers in Ozark City Schools are properly certified to teach in the State of Alabama.

To request information regarding the qualifications of your child’s teacher(s), a written request should be submitted to the principal of school in which you child attends.

Notice of Instruction by a Non-Highly Qualified Teacher

In a Title I school, if a situation should exist where a group of students is taught by a teacher who is not “highly qualified” by *Every Student Succeeds* legislation definition for a period longer than four weeks, the school system is required to send a notice to parents.

Central Office Personnel 774-5197

Superintendent of SchoolsMr. Reeivice Girtman
Director of Federal Programs.....Mrs. Marci Williams
Director of Special EducationMrs. Natasha Allen
Director of Student Services Mrs. Sheila Mcleod

Principals

School	Principal	Phone
Mixon Intermediate School	Mrs. Maghen Lowery	774-4912
Lisenby Primary School	Mrs. Dawn Tice	774-4919
DA Smith Middle School	Dr. Danelle Peterman	774-4913
Carroll High School	Dr. Charles Corbitt	774-4915

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING A TITLE I SCHOOL

Alabama Accountability/Report Card

Alabama Act No. 2012-402, requires the State Superintendent of Education to develop a school grading system reflective of school and district performance.

This law requires the state to use state-authorized assessments and other key performance indicators that give a total profile of the school or school system, or both. A school's grade, at a minimum shall be based on a combination of Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, Graduation Rate (for schools with a grade 12), College and Career Readiness (for schools with a grade 12), and Chronic Absenteeism.

The letter grade, given every January, is based on the total points earned for each indicator. Additional data has been added based on student engagement however, this data is not used in the calculation of the actual letter grade.

School-Parent Compact

Early in the school year, every parent of a child attending a Title I school will be asked to sign a School-Parent Compact. This document details the commitment of the school to provide the best possible education program available, and invites the parent to take an active part in the education of the child. The school-parent compact is a requirement of the *Every Student Succeeds* legislation.

Title I School Status

Based upon the percent of the student population that is eligible for free or reduced lunches, some Title I schools qualify for school-wide status. A school-wide Title I program has the advantage of applying Title I funds across all programs in the building, rather than targeting the funds to isolated students. All of Ozark City schools operate as school-wide programs. Each of these schools plan an annual program for their Title I funds. The planning process must include input from parents and must be approved at the local level. Once the program has been approved, the expenditure of Title I funds at the school is managed by committees of teachers who work in the school.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

Nondiscrimination

Ozark City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, handicap, or age in the educational programs and activities it operates, pursuant to the requirement of Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 (Public Law 92-3187) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 92-112), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

For information on compliance with statutes and regulations, contact the superintendent of schools.

Right to a Free Public Education

Alabama law guarantees the right to a free and appropriate public education for all students with disabilities ages 3 to 21.

The Ozark School System is responsible for the identification, evaluation and provision for services to students with disabilities ages 3 to 21 who live within the city limits of Ozark, Alabama. This includes, but is not limited to children who attend private schools, home schools and daycare centers.

Parents of children with disabilities who are not enrolled in school should contact the Director of Special Education at 774-5197, Ext. 2540 to obtain additional information.

Instruction by “Highly Qualified” Teachers

All teachers in Ozark City Schools are properly certified by the State of Alabama to teach the courses to which they are assigned. The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) legislation has introduced some additional requirements for teachers to be considered “highly qualified” under the new legislation.

All Ozark teachers either already meet or are in the process of meeting the requirements as a result of their higher education training.

English Language Learner Outreach

Ozark City Schools annually conducts a search for students who could benefit from English Language Learner (ELL) outreach services. Students are assessed regarding their English proficiency and an appropriate program is planned.

Any parent of an ELL child requiring assistance in the interpretation of school forms should contact the school office. Assistance will be provided by an interpreter or other appropriate school employee. Additional information regarding ELL services may be obtained by contacting any of the schools or by contacting the Director of Federal Programs at 334-774-5197.

Homeless Education

The *Every Student Succeeds* legislation added to the existing McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act by expanding upon those who qualify for services under the act and insuring that appropriate educational services are delivered to children experiencing homelessness. Ozark City Schools has implemented procedures to assist in the identification of homeless individuals and insures that these students can be registered in school regardless of their living situation. Anyone who believes they may be living in homeless circumstances should contact the principal of the schools or the Director of Student Services at 334-774-5197.

Safe Schools

Learning must take place in a safe environment. Ozark City Schools has several policies and procedures that are designed to maintain a safe environment and the best possible learning environment. The *Every Student Succeeds* legislation allows parents to exercise a school choice option if their child attends a school defined by the state as a “persistently dangerous” school. Ozark does not have any school that has been designated as a dangerous environment.

If, while at school, any child becomes the victim of a violent crime as defined by Alabama law, they may have the option of transferring to another school. Violent criminal offenses on school grounds are defined in the Alabama code 290-3-1-.02(1). Additional information regarding this law can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent.

Release of Directory Information to Military Recruiters

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* legislation requires school systems to release to military recruiters the same directory information that high schools normally make available to institutes of higher learning.

A definition of what is considered directory information may be obtained by contacting the high school guidance office at 334-774-4915. To prevent directory information from being released to military recruiters, a written request must be submitted to Carroll High School. Forms are available from the high school guidance office.