**Parents' Right to Know**

**Teacher & Paraprofessional Qualifications**

The Thomas County School District will provide, upon request, certain information on the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. The following information may be requested: certification, college major/graduate certification, or degree held by teacher, and / or qualifications of the paraprofessional, if paraprofessional services are provided. You may also inquire whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. (Section 1111(h)(6)A) If you desire information concerning the qualifications of your child’s teacher(s), please contact the principal at your child’s school.

**Non-Highly Qualified Teachers**

Each Thomas County School will provide to each individual parent a timely notice that the parent’s child has been assigned or taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is NOT highly qualified (Section 1111(h)(6)B).

**Student Achievement**

Each Thomas County School will provide to parents, information on the level of achievement of the parent’s child on each of the state academic assessments (Section 1111(h)(6)B).

**Parent Resources Title I**

The following schools are classified as Title I Schools: Hand-in-Hand Primary, Garrison-Pilcher Elementary, Cross Creek Elementary, Thomas County Middle, and Bishop Hall Charter School. Thomas County Schools qualify as Title I schools based on the number of students receiving free and reduced meals. Title I schools are required to use research-based teaching strategies and programs to improve student achievement. Staff must be highly qualified and must be involved in on-going staff development. School staff studies data gathered from student assessments, parent surveys, and staff surveys to guide the school’s Improvement Plan. Title I Parent Involvement Plans are distributed to every parent at the beginning of the school year. The plan will also be attached to the school web page. A parent advisory panel meets twice a year to discuss school accomplishments and areas for improvement. If you have concerns or questions, feel free to contact a parent advisory member.

Each Title I school has a parent resource room that houses a wealth of information pertaining to child health, discipline, development, and other topics relevant to the ages of the students at that school. Additionally, many different types of parent books are available for check-out in the media center. The media specialist is available to help parents. If you need information that we do not have, please ask. In most situations, we are able to secure resources for you to check-out.

A copy of our Title I Plan is located in the school office and is available for parents to view. Please contact a Parent Coordinator if you would like to see this document.

**Parent Volunteering**

Parent participation is encouraged at each of our schools. We encourage parents to participate in their student’s school life. An orientation for volunteers is held in the fall of each school year. If you are interested in volunteering in your child’s school, please contact the Parent Involvement Coordinator at that school. He or she will be more than happy to schedule times that are convenient for you and that will not disrupt class schedules.

**Parent Involvement**

Each of our Title I schools will have an annual parent workshop for the purpose of providing ways for parents to support their children. Topics may include academic advice, homework help, obtaining school information, behavior management, standardized test data, or college and career planning. We welcome your input for planning and evaluation of these parent events. We will post a parent survey on the Thomas county Schools website and have paper copies of the surveys available at the conclusion of each workshop.

**Comments and Concerns**

Thomas County Schools has a complaint procedure that is described in detail on our website: <http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/dept/2/> and in our Parent/ Student/ Teacher Handbooks. In the event that you have a complaint, we wish you to contact the school your child attends and seek assistance from the teacher or administration as an initial point of contact. If you are unable to resolve your concern, you are invited to contact the superintendent at the Thomas County School Board offices. If you are still unsatisfied, you may contact the Georgia Department of Education via their website: <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Complaint-and-Comments.aspx>