



Welcome Letter

Paula M. Harris

Title I Director of Program Improvement and Family Support



Dear Title I Coordinators,

I would like to personally welcome each of you to the **Title I Fall Administrative Meeting**. It is an exciting time for the Title I Program Improvement and Family Support Team. As we continue to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, we remain committed to providing you with technical assistance and program improvement support. ESSA has charged us all with the goal of *“preparing students, regardless of race, income, disability, ethnicity, or proficiency in English, for a successful college and fulfilling career.”* In order to prepare economically disadvantaged students, equity must take center stage, we must sharpen our focus on the equity gap and provide suitable resources to student groups underperforming within our Title I schools.

It is an exciting time to be an educational influencer. Today’s meeting is designed to encourage and inspire you to think differently about your current practices when utilizing Title I resources to fulfill the mission and vision of your local school system. The Title I Program Improvement and Family Support Team gathered Maryland State Department of Education and Local School System leaders together as speakers, panelists, and presenters in order to provide you with an enriching experience. Collaborate, gather, and exchange new ideas. As an agency we are transforming the way we operate. Our desire is to maximize the required meetings and turn them into events where you can reflect on your current practices and successfully meet educational challenges in the future.

We should all be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed. You have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal, and the experience to pave pathways toward educational success for economically disadvantaged students. During today’s meeting ask the question, *“How does equity apply to my work as a steward of Title I funds?”* Listen to the strategies, initiatives and resources being shared and determine next steps for your school system. The Title I Program Improvement and Family Support Team is here to assist your efforts, we have future webinars planned to meet your needs regarding comparability, carryover, and program review monitoring.

I would like to thank each of you for attending the **Title I Fall Administrative Meeting** and bringing your expertise to our gathering. Begin today with *“Defining your why?”* and end it with a sharper focus on *“How equity, data analysis, and collaboration can move students forward!”*

Best Regards,

Paula M. Harris

