

**Common Questions & Answers
Regarding Collaboration
between
Title I and the Gearing Up for Kindergarten Program**

Q. Why should a district or school consider implementing a Gearing Up for Kindergarten program?

- A. Parental involvement has always been a key component in the Title I law. Title I regulations require parental involvement at every level of the program. The Title I statute defines high quality parental involvement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication regarding student academic learning and other school activities.

In addition, in recent years there has been a surge in the number of schools using their Title I funds for early childhood education.

The Gearing Up for Kindergarten program combines these two initiatives by coordinating school readiness with parent education. The Gearing Up for Kindergarten program meets the Title I definition for high quality parental involvement, as well as offers an educational component for assisting children in preparing for kindergarten.

Q. When implementing a Gearing Up for Kindergarten program and using Title I funds to help support the program, does it matter whether your school operates a targeted assistance or schoolwide program?

- A. Yes, a school's Title I designation of targeted assistance or schoolwide makes a significant difference in how the funds can be spent.

In Title I schoolwide programs, there is greater flexibility on the use of funding. An activity must be outlined and approved in the schoolwide plan, as well as the district's consolidated application. The Gearing Up for Kindergarten program can help schoolwide programs meet the requirement pertaining to preschool transition.

However, in a targeted assistance program, all interventions funded with Title I dollars can only be for at-risk students. Targeted assistance schools are somewhat limited on how the funds can be utilized. Interventions (e.g., Gearing Up for Kindergarten) cannot be made available to all children attending the school. All interventions can only be for at-risk students identified through a student selection process.

Q. In a large district with multiple buildings, is there flexibility to use different funding sources in different elementary buildings?

- A. Yes, fortunately, there is flexibility in using various funding sources.

In visiting with the U.S. Department of Education, since the state funding was distributed to the NDSU Extension Service as flow-through funds, there are no supplanting issues like there could

be if the funds were administered through the NDDPI. What this means is that districts can use their Title I funds in Title I buildings for the Gearing Up for Kindergarten program and could use the funds appropriated to the NDSU Extension Service for programs in their non-Title I buildings.

Q. Where can I access information regarding the Gearing Up for Kindergarten program?

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| A. NDSU Extension Service
North Dakota State University
www.ag.ndsu.edu/gearupkindergarten | North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Title I Website
www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/earlychild/index.shtm |
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Q. Who can I contact for additional information on the Gearing up for Kindergarten program or using Title I funds to help support the Initiative?

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| A. <u>Gearing Up For Kindergarten Questions</u>

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