

**FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Learn with passion! Lead with confidence! Live with character!  
1000 FORBES STREET • FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22405

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to notify you that Falmouth Elementary School has been named a Title I School for the year 2020-2021. Being named a Title I school allows our school to receive more resources and support to improve student achievement.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the purpose of Title 1 part A funding, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

The basic principles of Title 1 state that schools with large concentrations of low-income students (35% or above) will receive supplemental funds to assist in meeting students' educational goals. Low-income students are determined by the number of students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. There are two types of Title I programs, *targeted* or *schoolwide*. All of the schools in Stafford County that are Title I are operating as targeted schools for the year 2020-2021. A target school uses Title I funds to provide services to a select group of children--those identified as failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State's challenging content and student performance standards.

For more information on Title I go to <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>

**How are Title I Funds Used?**

How to use Title 1 funds rests with each school. Title 1 funds can be used to improve curriculum, instructional activities, counseling, parental involvement, and increase staff. The funding should assist schools in meeting the educational goals of all struggling students, in particular those of low-income homes.

Types of students that might be served by Title 1 funds include migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, homeless students, students with disabilities, neglected students, delinquent students, at-risk students or any student in need. Students can be classified as at-risk for numerous reasons. A few reasons they might be classified as at-risk students include: low academic performance, being held back a grade for one or more years, or being homeless. There are other criteria that may place students in an at-risk category as well.

**Our Priorities at Falmouth Elementary for this year are:**

- Engage families and the community in student learning; we will be looking at how we can support the families in that endeavor.
- Support additional personnel through providing an additional full-time reading specialist, two reading paraprofessionals and one math paraprofessional.
- Purchasing software to increase student achievement in the areas of reading and mathematics. Software programs include BrainPOP, Newsela, and Learning A to Z.

**What can you do to be involved and help your student learn?**

- Know how the school is doing - you can view our school's report card at: [schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools/falmouth-elementary](http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools/falmouth-elementary)
- Know how your child is doing in school by checking out our website: [www.staffordschools.net/fes](http://www.staffordschools.net/fes)
- Volunteer at our school:
  - o Become an active member of our PTO
  - o Volunteer in the classroom
  - o Attend parent-teacher conferences and school events. Call or send teachers an email if you have questions or concerns about your child's learning.
  - o Send an email to your teacher and let them know how your child learns best and how to help her/him learn.
- Tell us what you need to help your child learn. Our school and community have many resources available to help families. Feel free to contact Ami Brown, our school counselor, at 540-373-7458.

To access VDOE's parental involvement: [www.doe.virginia.gov/families/families/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/families/families/index.shtml)

Please let me know if you have any questions about our school's efforts to improve or how parents can support those efforts. You can learn more about how to become involved in our school by visiting our PTO website at: [falmouthelementarypto.org](http://falmouthelementarypto.org)

Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning at Falmouth Elementary School.

Sincerely,  
*Sallie Johnakin-Putnam*  
Falmouth Elementary School Principal