

# Connecting the Dots Between Strategic Renewal Plans and Title I Plans

ESSA Academy 2025

C.R. Hall

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**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# Agenda

## 1 Laws and the District

- ESSA Laws
- State Law
- Connect the Dots

## 2 The Plans

- Strategic Renewal Plans vs Title Plans
- Connect the Dots

## 3 The Future

- ESSA
- DSSR
- Connect the Dots





# Agenda #1

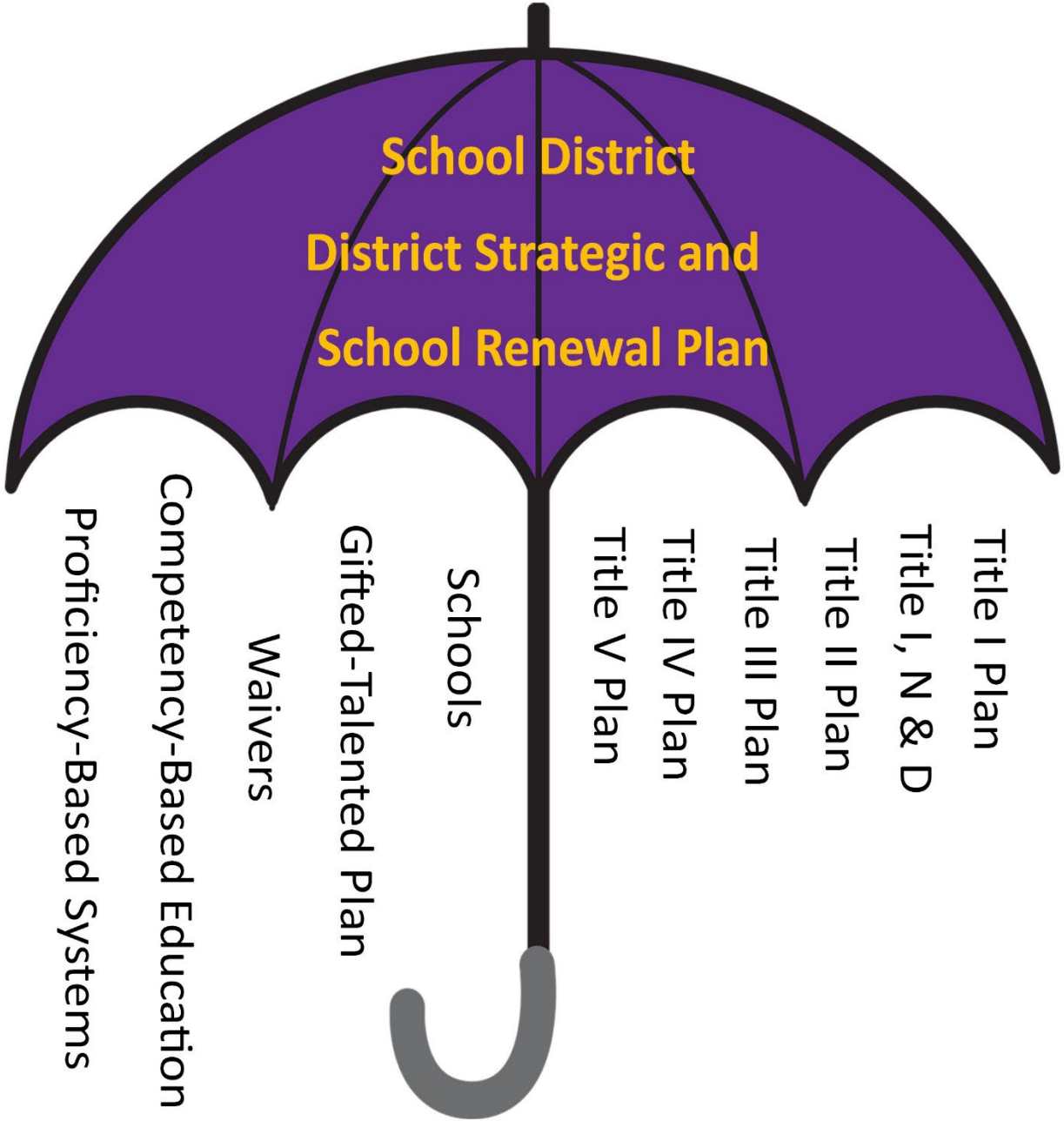
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## Laws and the District



# School District

The school district is the responsible for the entire school system. All parts of the school system report the school district. All parts support the function of the school district.



# What Does ESSA Say?

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Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the school parent and family engagement policy and joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

***ESSA Sections 1114, 1116.***

- Evidence of plan review process with families and parents playing an active participant role
- Evidence of dissemination to families and communities



# What Does ESSA Say?

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The LEA family engagement policy is developed and agreed upon by families/ parents and distributed to all families/parents. The policy must describe how the LEA will:

- . Develop a Title I Plan
- . Build capacity to improve academic achievement
- . Coordinate with other programs
- . Include evidence-based strategies
- . Policy is reviewed annually

**ESSA Section 1116(a).**

- Evidence of annual review with family/parent engagement such as notifications of meetings, list of attendees, minutes of meetings, agendas, and parent comments
- Evidence that the policy is distributed to parents





# What Does ESSA Say?

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Parents of children receiving services are involved in the decisions regarding how parent and family engagement funds are allotted for parent and family engagement activities.

**ESSA Section 1116(a)(3)(B).**

- Meeting agenda, notes/minutes, and sign-in/attendance sheet.



# What Does the South Carolina State Law Say?

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The State Law outlines that each local board of trustees will establish an improvement council at each school within the district.

**S.C. Code Ann. § 59-20-60(6)**

- Council is to include at least 2 parents, 2 teachers, 2 students (high school), and representatives of the community
- Council shall assist in the preparation of the Strategic Renewal Plan
- Council shall provide advice on the use of school grants





# Connect the Dots

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- If the Title Plan(s) is developed in collaboration with parents...
- If the Strategic Renewal Plan is developed in collaboration with parents...
- If the SIC provides advice on the use of Title funds and the Strategic Renewal Plan...

Why can't these plans be developed and approved by the same group of stakeholders?





# Agenda #2

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## The Plans



# Strategic Renewal vs. Title Plans

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1. Comprehensive Needs Assessment
2. Goals
  1. Academic Achievement
  2. Teacher/Administrator Quality
  3. School Climate
  4. Other District Priorities
3. Action Steps
  1. Funding Sources

1. Comprehensive Needs Assessment
2. Goals
  1. Title I (student achievement & school climate)
  2. Title II (teacher/admin quality)
  3. Title III (ML learners)
  4. Title IV (well-rounded)
  5. Title V (rural)
3. Action Steps
  1. Fund Distribution



# Strategic Renewal vs. Title Plans

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1. Meeting agenda, minutes, and a sign-in sheet
2. SIC provides advice on how to use the Title Funds
3. District approves all school strategic renewal plans and Title plans

1. Meeting agenda, minutes, and a sign-in sheet
2. Plan must be developed in consultation with the parents
3. SIC provides advice on how to use the Title Funds



# Connect the Dots

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- Write a **good** Comprehensive Needs Assessment in the Strategic Renewal Plan
  - Use the Comprehensive Needs Assessment for the Title Plans
- Write specific and detailed action steps in the Strategic Renewal Plan
  - Use the Action Steps for the Narrative Description in your Title(s) Plan
- Write in a Funding Source with an estimated cost in the Strategic Renewal Plan
  - Use the Funding Source and assign a specific dollar figure in the Title Plans



# Funding

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**FUND** the plan,  
not plan the fund.

Good Planning + Funds =  
Student Achievement Growth





# Agenda #3

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## The Future





# ESSA and the Future

- State Superintendent Weaver's goal is for "Every child is college, career, or military-ready. By 2030, at least 75% of students at or above grade level."
  - Is your district at the is point?
- The Office of Federal and State Accountability's (OFSA) Consolidated Finance and Application Team, Innovation and Support Team, and Consolidated Oversight and Monitoring Team will be asking questions about the return on investment.
  - To meet the goal, the OFSA will begin asking deeper questions about the Title funds



# ESSA and the Future

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- A district spends \$500,000 over 5 years on the ABC Reading Program
    - After 5 years, the student achievement has not improved
  - Field trips
- What is the return on investment if the district continues to purchase the ABC Reading Program?
  - What is essential between this field trip and the standard?
    - How does this field trip close the gap in the instruction?



# Strategic Renewal Plans and the Future

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- A district/school has little to no actual student growth
  - A district/school has more than 90% success on a goal
- What is the district/school going to do differently to meet the State Superintendent's expectations?
    - How are you funding your plan?
    - What are the barriers to student growth?
  - Why is the district/school using a goal with a high success rate?
    - Why is the district/school not targeting another area for growth?



# Strategic Renewal Plans and the Future

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- A school purchases band instruments via Title I Funds
- A district/school purchases social workers via Title I funds
- Although this is an allowable expense, how does this relate to the goal(s) in your DSSR?
  - Is this a better fit for Title IV or Title V?
- This is an allowable expenditure, but how does this relate to the district/school climate goal(s)?
  - Is this a better fit for Title IV or M-V funds?



# Strategic Renewal Plans and the Future

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- Conferences
- Parent/Family Engagement Nights
- How does attending a conference meet your Teacher/Admin Quality goal?
  - Make sure your time away from the building speaks to student growth
- What data are you looking at to show parents are engaging in your Parent/Family Nights?
  - What are you doing to bridge the gap between the school and Parent/Family engagement events?
  - Parent/Family engagement should be tied to your DSSR goals
    - Literacy Night
    - Math Nights



# Connect the Dots

- All planning begins with a **good** Strategic Renewal Plan.
  - Check all the egos at the door
  - Have the tough conversation about the student achievement results
  - Have the tough conversation about **all** the funds
  - What is the return on the taxpayers' investment?
  - How did you improve student outcomes?
  - How is the district's system meeting Superintendent Weaver's goal?





# Staffing/Organizational Chart



**C.R. Hall**  
**Team Lead**



**Devetter Bradley**  
**Education Associate**



**Pat Ciccantelli**  
**Education Associate**



**Vacant**  
**Education Associate**



**Vacant**  
**Education Associate**





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