

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Title I Directors, Family Involvement Program Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, High School Principals
From: Title I Dissemination Project, Inc.
Subject: **Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship -- Request for Applications**
Date: March 25, 2009

It gives us great pleasure to announce the **2009 Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship**. This award, established in 1989 to honor the memory of Robert Watson, Title I director for the Lynn Public Schools, will provide \$1,500 scholarships for one or more graduating seniors who have been accepted into a post-secondary undergraduate program.

The eligibility requirements for this scholarship are demonstrated need and that the applicant participated in a Title I funded Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide program for at least one academic year, at any grade level. The applicant's participation could have taken place in either a public or non-public school, or as part of a program administered in a local/state-operated facility for neglected or delinquent children.

Your assistance is requested in disseminating this information to individuals in your district who may be able to identify deserving students -- teachers, program coordinators, as well as Title I administrators in private schools and facilities for neglected/delinquent children.

We recommend that you or a Title I designee coordinate the effort and review all applications before submitting them. All applications will require the superintendent's signature, as well as those of the Title I director and applicant senior. Completed applications must be received **no later than Friday, May 1, 2009** and should be sent directly to:

Title I Dissemination Project, Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
500 West Cummings Park, Suite 1075
Woburn, MA 01801

Selected recipients will be notified in May of 2009 and will receive their awards in June 2009. They will be acknowledged during the opening general session of the 33rd Annual Massachusetts Title I Conference in October 2009. We hope that you will be able to join us should a student from your district be selected. A reception will be provided to the recipients, their family, and school representatives after the general session.

Thank you for your assistance in disseminating this scholarship information.

Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship Application Guidelines

Overview

The Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 to honor the memory of Robert Watson, Title I director for the Lynn Public Schools. The scholarship will provide \$1,500 for one or more graduating seniors who have been accepted into a post-secondary undergraduate program. The scholarship may be awarded to any needy student who participated in a **Title I funded Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide program** for at least one academic year, at any grade level.

Selected recipients will be notified in May of 2009 and will receive their awards in June 2009. They will be acknowledged during the opening general session of the 33rd Annual Massachusetts Title I Conference in October 2009. Recipients will receive the award in two equal payments. The first payment will be sent to the recipient in June 2009. The second payment will be awarded at the start of the second half of the freshman year, after a copy of passing grades from first half of the year and proof of enrollment for second semester has been forwarded to the Scholarship Committee.

What is Title I?

Title I is a federal, compensatory education program that supports school districts in meeting the educational needs of at-risk students in the nation's most economically disadvantaged cities and towns. Title I is different from Special Education. Whereas students with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities may receive Special Education services to assist them in their learning, Title I funds are primarily used to close the achievement gap between high- and low-performing students. Title I funding and resources are distributed to schools and districts where the need is the greatest. Formulas determining how much funding each district or school receives are based on how many students in the district are on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program.

There are two types of Title I programs. In **Targeted Assistance** programs, individual students who are at-risk of failing to meet state academic standards are provided extra educational services to ensure their success. For example, a school may hire a teacher to assist students who are struggling in reading, math, or English language acquisition. The purpose of **Schoolwide Programs** is to upgrade the entire educational program; therefore, all students in these schools benefit from Title I services.

The Title I program strives to improve student academic achievement and performance by increasing parental, family, school, and community involvement and collaboration in education. Title I funds are often used to host workshops for families, run educational family events (math, science, or reading nights, parent/child book clubs, etc.), support parent information centers, and provide parent education and training.

Eligibility

The applicant must be an individual who expects to graduate from high school in 2009 and expects to be accepted for admission to a post-secondary undergraduate program. The applicant must have participated for at least one academic year in a **Title I funded Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide Program**. This participation could have taken place in either a public or non-public school, or as part of a Title I program administered in a local/state-operated facility for neglected or delinquent children. Priority will be based on need. Each school district's Title I Director will be able to verify if a student has received Title I services, either through a Targeted Assistance Program or as part of a Schoolwide Program. Students can contact their local school department to locate their Title I Director.

Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship Application Guidelines (continued)

Selection Criteria

The committee who will review applications will evaluate them using the following criteria:

1. Written Content
 - Impact of Title I
 - Sense of direction
 - Sincerity of purpose
 - Desire to achieve
 - Overcoming circumstances
 - Demonstration of academic growth
2. Need (Part III)
3. Quality of Writing
 - Clarity of expression
 - Use of mechanics (grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, etc.)
4. Two letters of Recommendation

Timeline

Title I Dissemination Project, Inc. must **receive** completed applications **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2009**. Applications will be considered complete if all parts have been answered, two (2) supporting letters of recommendation are attached, and the necessary signatures are provided. We recommend that local Title I directors establish an internal deadline of April 17 to allow time to review applications and garner the superintendent's signature before submitting them. Additional applications can be downloaded from the Project's Website at

<http://www.title1project.com>

Incomplete applications or those received after May 1, 2009 will be disqualified.

Mail applications to:
Title I Dissemination Project, Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
500 West Cummings Park, Suite 1075
Woburn, MA 01801

Questions? Call (781) 938-1388.

Applications must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2009. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. You may fax your application to (781) 938-0550, but please also mail a hard copy to the Title I Dissemination Project, Inc. The Project cannot be held responsible for incomplete faxes or transmission difficulties.

Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship

PART I: BACKGROUND

1. Name of Applicant: _____
(last) (first) (middle)
2. Address (Street): _____ Apt. _____
Address (City, state, zip): _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
3. Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
4. Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
5. Please complete the following chart with the grade(s), school district, and type(s) of Title I services you received:

Grade(s)	School District	Area(s) of Title I Service (Reading, math, etc.)

6. Name of school district and high school now attending:

District High School
7. Name & location of the post-secondary school or program you plan to attend or have applied to:

I attest that the information in this application is complete and accurate and that I received Title I supported services for at least one academic year.

_____ Applicant's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent's / Guardian's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Title I Director's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Superintendent's Signature	_____ Date

Part IV: Essay (250-500 Words)

Please describe the impact that Title I services have had on you. Be sure to include how Title I prepared you for the future and helped you overcome academic and/or personal circumstances.

Part V: Two Letters of Recommendation

Attach **TWO** letters of recommendation supporting your nomination for this scholarship award. **One must be from someone in the education field.**