

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education believes that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Parental involvement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parental involvement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework “contracts” between parents and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parental involvement.

Title I Parental Involvement – District Level Policy

Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A, of the federal No Child Left behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents and students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child’s education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parental involvement policies, as further required by the NCLB.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. At a minimum, parental involvement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; and
- Are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

The term parent refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).

District and school level Title I parental involvement programs, activities and procedures will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

As further required by the NCLB, parents of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district’s Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents also will participate in the process for developing a school improvement plan when the school their child attends fails to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and is identified as a school in need of improvement.

Parent participation in development and review of district-wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff, will ensure parent involvement in the development of the district-wide parental involvement plan. The Board, along with the superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff, will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent involvement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this development and review of the plan, the district will conduct the following activities:

1. Involvement of parents in the joint development of the district's Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement;
2. Coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary, to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, included but not limited to materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement through training in literacy and technology to foster parent involvement;
3. Development of activities that promote the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement;
4. Coordination and integration of parental involvement strategies with appropriate programs as provided by law;
5. Involvement of parents in the annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served with Title I funds;
6. Identification of barriers to participation by parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority;
7. Findings of annual evaluations are used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the requirements of this policy;
8. Parent involvement in the activities of schools served by Title I funding.
9. Teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents are educated in the value and utility of contributions by parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
10. Coordination and integration to the extent feasible and appropriate, of parent involvement programs and activities with programs including but not limited to, Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschools (if they exist in the LEA) and other programs and activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and

support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;

11. Publication of information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand.

Development of school level parental involvement plans

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parental involvement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the superintendent will take actions such as holding meetings at flexible times and/or in highly accessible places such as public housing projects, or surveying parents by phone, mail, or e-mail.

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will provide activities such as workshops, conferences, distribution of training materials, and/or training parents to help other parents understand the role they can play in helping their child.
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their child's academic achievement. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will provide activities such as literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library, providing information about the essential components of reading or math instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teacher, or training parents in the use of the Internet to enable them to access their children's homework; communicate with teachers; and review information posted about schools in improvement, supplemental educational services, public school choice, and other opportunities to promote student achievement.
3. Educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on how to:
 - Reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
 - Implement and coordinate parent programs; and
 - Build ties between parents and schools.
4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parent involvement strategies

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with the NCLB Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parent involvement strategies adopted in connection with any of the following applicable programs: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs.

Title I Parental Involvement – School Level Policy

The (School Name) recognizes that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education at school and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parents' involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB):

1. The building principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title I program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer a flexible number of meetings to provide parents the opportunity to meet with school staff and otherwise participate in their child's education. These meetings shall be held at flexible times (e.g., morning or evening) and/or in highly accessible places such as public housing projects, etc.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title I programs. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent involvement policy.

