

Title I/Parental Involvement

Parental Involvement Policy

A parental involvement policy shall be developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of participating students.

The district shall ensure:

1. The Title I Coordinator establishes and facilitates a district Title I parent advisory committee to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in Title I programs;
2. Involvement of parents in the joint development of the district's overall Title I plan, reviewing evidence of implementation and making recommendations for improvements through participation in the District's Title I parent advisory committee;
3. Involvement of parents in determining how district Title I parent involvement funds are used to effectively promote parent involvement through participation in the Title I parent advisory committee;
4. The Title I Coordinator provides or secures coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities consistent with evidence based best practices to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
5. Development of activities that promote the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement;
6. Coordination and integration of parent involvement strategies with appropriate programs as provided by law;
7. The Title I Coordinator involves parents through the Title I parent advisory committee in the annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I by reviewing: family involvement strategies in comparison to evidence based best practices, participation rates in family involvement activities, and academic achievement data from Title I schools used to design more effective strategies and revise the policy as necessary;
8. The Title I Coordinator ensures that each Title I school has an effective plan including strategies consistent with evidence based best practices to involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I;

9. Barriers to participation by parents who are homeless, economically disadvantaged,, disabled, parents of migratory children, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority are identified and used to inform effective parent involvement strategies;
10. To the extent possible, ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the homes of participating students in a format and in a language the parent can understand;
11. The Title I Coordinator works with the Title I parent advisory committee to develop or support at the school level training that shall educate teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, in the value and utility of the contributions of 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.

Title I Plan

As a part of the district's overall Title I plan, the district shall ensure effective involvement of parents by promoting activities that support a partnership among the school, parents and the community and that promote the improvement of student achievement. Plans may be developed by participating district schools individually or collectively.

District Title I schools:

1. Shall hold annual meetings with parents and guardians to develop and review the parent involvement policy;
2. Shall involve parents, representative of the school's population, including parents of migratory children, in the process of school review and improvement through opportunities for participation in the annual review and update of Title I School wide plans;
3. Shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school's parent involvement policy in improving the quality of the school's educational program. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents with particular attention to parents who are homeless, economically disadvantaged, disabled, parents of migratory children, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The school will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent involvement policies;
4. Shall provide assistance to parents of students served by the school in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards, Title I plan requirements, state and local academic assessments and how to monitor a student's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their student;
5. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve their student's achievement, such as literacy and math training and use of technology, as appropriate, to foster parent involvement;

6. Shall, with the support of the Title I Coordinator, ensure Title I school administrators work with their school's Title I parents to develop training that shall educate teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, in the value and utility of the contributions of 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;
7. Shall coordinate and integrate parent-involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters and public preschool programs and other programs, to the extent feasible and appropriate;
8. Shall ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the homes of participating students in a format and in a language the parent can understand;
9. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent involvement activities, including transportation and child-care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related activities;
10. Shall arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators in order to maximize parent involvement and participation:
11. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent-involvement activities;
12. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request consistent with Title I requirements;
13. Shall, with the support of the Title I Coordinator, provide necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
14. Shall involve parents in determining how the school's Title I parent involvement funds are used to effectively promote parent involvement.

School-Parent Compact

A school-parent compact shall be developed for each of the district's Title I schools by school administrators working with parents who provide input in the development of the compact.

The compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the state's student academic achievement standards;
2. Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their student's learning;

3. Stress the importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents including annual parent-teacher conferences to discuss the parent teacher compact, plans for frequently reporting children's progress, and how parents can contact staff, volunteer in their children's classrooms, and observe classroom activities.

The district shall, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents of homeless students and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports will be provided in a format and language parents understand.

The district's policy shall be adopted by the Board, reviewed annually and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school and distributed to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.