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. Involvement of parents in the joint development of the district's overall 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;

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 under Title I;

6. 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 are identified;

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. Parents are involved in the activities of schools served under Title I.

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 schools:

1. 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;

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve their student's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

3. Shall educate teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of 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;

4. Shall coordinate and integrate parent-involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program and public preschool programs and other programs, to the extent feasible and appropriate;

5. 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;

6. May involve parents in the development of training of teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;

7. May provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds received if the district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;

8. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child-care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related activities;

9. May train and support parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

10. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;

11. May establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs;

12. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental-involvement activities;

13. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement, such as Even Start; and

14. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request consistent with Title I requirements.

School-Parent Compact

A school-parent compact shall be developed for each of the district's Title I schools. 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 through annual parent-teacher conferences at the elementary school level.

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, plan and compact 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.