

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

POLICY:

The Board recognizes that parent involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in district programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among school, parents, and community. The Board expects that its schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with the statutory definition of parental involvement. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents:

- A. Play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- B. Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- C. 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 Board of Directors adopts as part of this policy the following guidance for parent involvement. The District shall:

- A. Put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its Title I schools consistent with federal laws including the development and evaluation of policy. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children;
- B. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- C. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- D. Coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction, Preschool Youngsters, State-run Preschools;
- E. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I funds, including identifying barriers to greater participation of parents in Title I-related activities, with particular attention to

participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children; and

- F. Involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement are spent.

Legal Reference: PL 107-110, Section 1118(a)

Management Resources: Policy News, October 2008 Family Involvement Policy
Policy News, June 2005 Title I Parental Policy
Policy News, August 2003 No Child Left Behind Update

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PROCEDURES:

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that the District's Title I Parent Involvement policy, plan, and programs comply with the requirements of federal law.

- A. The District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan:
 - 1. An annual meeting of parents of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. At this meeting, parents will be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. The Executive Director responsible for the Title I Program will hold this meeting annually at the ESC in the fall after the year's Title I student lists have been compiled. All parents/guardians of Title I students will be invited. Parents/guardians will be assured that feedback they provide to schools will be forwarded to the District for consideration and to help with the program's evaluation in the spring.
 - 2. Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the development, operation, and evaluation of the program. Each spring, parents will be given an opportunity to participate in the development, operation, and evaluation of the program by being invited to attend a building program evaluation meeting, and/or by completing and returning a joint district/building survey. The survey will ask for feedback about the opportunities to participate and evaluate the title program, school-home communication, barriers to greater participation, and more effective parental opportunities for involvement.

- B. The District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:
 - 1. Each fall, all parents/guardians of current Title I students will be invited to a building meeting to have an opportunity to review the School Improvement Plan. This may occur at a regularly scheduled PTA meeting, at a title parent meeting, or other school event. The invitation to parents will be extended by note/handout, in the first language of the students'

parents, if possible, on the website, and school PTA and district newsletters. In some cases, phone calls will also be made.

2. Parents will be encouraged to participate in the building self-review that is held in the spring. Invitations will go to all parents/guardians that have had a child participate in the Title I Program during that school year. Invitations will be delivered similarly to those for the SIP review in the fall listed above.
- C. The District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities:
1. Identify barriers to greater participation in parental involvement activities through the use of an annual spring parent survey;
 2. Use findings of the evaluation of the survey to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to remove barriers to parental involvement by such activities as (a) conducting joint parent meetings with other programs; (b) holding meetings at various times of the day and evening; and (c) arranging for in-home conferences; and
 3. Revise, when necessary, the district and school parental involvement policies.
- D. The District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with similar strategies under the following other programs such as Head Start, Even Start; Learning Assistance Program; special education; and state-operated preschool programs.
- E. The District will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
- F. The District will build the schools' and the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through the following:
1. The District will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide information to parents of children served by the District or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The State's essential academic learning requirements,
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - How to monitor their child's progress, and
 - How to work with educators.

Although this information will be shared at the annual building meeting and various other building activities, the District will provide support by

including a review of this information at its annual title meeting in the fall by including news of the building meetings and activities on the district website and by providing access to a Spanish language speaker on staff at annual meetings and by appointment as needed to assist parents. Translators for other languages will be arranged as needed.

G. School district personnel will work with teachers, principals, and other staff to reach out to, communicate with, and engage parents as equal partners. Each building provides the following information to parents:

1. An explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program and the annual district and building Title meetings held in the fall;
2. A description and explanation of the school's curriculum at the school's Curriculum Night held in September;
3. Information in the academic assessment used to measure student progress in the Student Learning Plans, on trimester report cards, and at parent-teacher conferences; and
4. Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet at the annual district and building Title I meetings, in the Student Learning Plans, on trimester report cards, and at parent-teacher conferences.

The District will also provide support by including news of meetings and activities on the district website and by providing access to a Spanish language speaker on staff to assist parents. Translators for other languages will be arranged as needed.

H. The District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

1. Distribute the Title I Family Involvement Policy on an annual basis. The District posts current policies on its website. Copies of the policy will be available to parents in English and Spanish at both the district and the building annual Title I meetings in the fall and at subsequent title meetings. Schools will send a copy of both the district and the school policy home with students whose parents don't sign in at the building meeting in the family's home language.
2. To the extent needed and practicable, distribute the Title I Family Involvement Policy in multiple language or formats. Every effort will be made to provide every family with a copy of the policies in their home language.

In addition to the district-wide policy on family involvement, each school offering Title I, Part A services will have a separate school building parent involvement policy. The building-level Title I, Part A parent involvement policy will meet the following requirements:

1. Each building in the district receiving Title I, Part A funds shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents of students served in the program a written building-level policy agreed upon by parents of Title I served students;
2. The policy will outline how parents, school staff, and students share responsibility for student achievement in meeting academic standards;
3. Parents will be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format;
4. To the extent practicable, the policy will be provided in a language the parents can understand; and
5. The policy will be evaluated with parents annually.