

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 of 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 parents refer 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 of district wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent involvement in the development of the district wide parental involvement plan:

Each school's site based management team must have at least one parent member. School site-based teams coordinate and integrate parent involvement into other program areas. Parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of educational programs through participation in the following district committees:

Interview of Potential Staff Members

Title I Parent Involvement Committee (This policy does not require that a Title I parent to be on every District interview committee.)

Review of district wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its 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 review, the district will conduct the following activities:

The district review will be coordinated and facilitated by the Director of Title I. The review will transpire in May in the District's Conference Room. At this meeting, the District's Parental Involvement policy will be reviewed by the members of the Title I advisory committee to determine if the policy is meeting the needs of the school community. Child care and translation services will be made available.

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:

Meetings will be held at flexible times and highly accessible places such as in one of our school buildings. We will also utilize e-chalk, phone and mail to make parents aware of meeting dates, times and locations.

Building capacity for parent 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:

At our Parental meetings, we will provide information for parents about the essential components of reading or math instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teachers:

- Train parents on the use of the internet to enable them to access their children's homework;
- Communicate with teachers;
- Review information posted about schools improvement, supplemental educational services, and other opportunities to promote student achievement.

2. Provide materials and training to help parents work to improve their child's academic achievement. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

The district will pay reasonable and necessary expenses such as child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school related events and training sessions.

3. Educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contribution 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 the schools.

To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I school will:

The district will pay reasonable and necessary expenses such as child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school related events and training sessions.

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 parental involvement strategies

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with the NCLB Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with any of the following applicable programs: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, and State-operated preschool programs. It will do this by:

The Title I Director will coordinate programs and strategies as well as identify what monitoring and follow-up procedures will be conducted.