

## **District Wide Parental Involvement Policy:**

### **PART I.**

#### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

Powhatan County Public Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA (Local Education Agency) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) that parents 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;
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

### **PART II.**

#### **DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. Powhatan County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- Title I schools will convene an annual meeting prior to November 15<sup>th</sup> of each school year.
- Curriculum information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.
- Assessment information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.
- The school division will establish a Title I Parent Advisory Committee which will meet quarterly.
- Meeting agendas for the quarterly meetings will be available to parents via the division website, school website, and Parent Resource Center.
- The Parent Advisory Committee will provide a time slot on each agenda for public comment.

2. Powhatan County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- The Title I Advisory Committee meetings will be open to all parents.
- The primary function of the Title I Advisory Committee will be to allow parents to review available data with school staff and to provide input to assist schools in modifying and updating their parental involvement initiatives.

3. Powhatan County Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Each Title I school will receive a budget for parental involvement activities using Title I funds.
- Powhatan County Public Schools will operate a Parent Resource Center whose services will be advertised to parents of students receiving Title I services.
- The Parent Resource Center will be staffed during the school year with flexible hours to accommodate various parent work schedules.
- The center staff will provide technical assistance for parents in obtaining curriculum information, information regarding the local and state assessment program, and all available services provided by the school division.
- The center staff will provide workshops in topics of interest to parents such as discipline, learning style, and social skills.

4. Powhatan County Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:

- Working collaboratively with the local Head Start Program.
- Developing a series of parent activities (e.g. Family Literacy Night) that are partially funded with Title I Parental Involvement funds.

5. Powhatan County Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- Powhatan County Public Schools will conduct a parent survey by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year in order to determine the level of participation and to identify barriers that have prevented participation.
- Parent surveys will be available on paper and on the school division website.
- Each building principal will use the parent survey as baseline data for the upcoming year and establish a parental involvement participation goal for the next school year.

- As part of the School Improvement Plan, each school will develop and implement strategies to increase parental involvement based partially on survey data.

6. Powhatan County Public Schools will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
  - the State's student academic achievement standards,
  - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
  - the requirements of Part A,
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators:
- Powhatan County Public Schools will establish dates on the school calendar for parent/teacher conferences.
  - School and individual teacher websites will provide information such as daily schedules, classwork, homework, school events, supply lists, and contact information.
  - Each Title I school's parental involvement policy will be available in each student handbook and on the division website.
  - Dates for interim reports and 9-week report cards will be included in the student handbook and on the division website.

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Sharing strategies that are developed by reading and math coaches at each Title I school during Family Literacy Nights.
- Conducting parent workshops which will be offered through the Parent Resource Center.
- Distributing parental involvement newsletters and posting them on the school website. These newsletters share reading strategies and tips that parents can use at home with their children.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, through:

- A collaboration between the Title I Coordinator and the Parent Resource staff and principals of each Title I school. These people will work together to identify specific outreach strategies for each Title I school.

The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Operating a Parent Resource Center that is centrally located at Pocahontas Elementary School.
- Collaborating with the local Head Start Program.
- Conducting an elementary summer school reading and math program using available data regarding student performance and needs.
- Developing a series of Family Literacy Night activities that are funded with Title I Parental Involvement funds.
- 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:
- Establishing dates on the school calendar for parent/teacher conferences. The school calendar will be available on the division website and in the student handbook.
- Communicating information about upcoming events and program through the division website.
- Individual teacher websites providing daily schedules, classwork, homework, school events, supply lists, and contact information.
- Making the division's parental involvement policy available on the division website, and copies are available upon request.
- Including the dates for interim reports and 9-week report cards in the student handbook and on the division website.
- Posting the course outline for the four content areas at all grade levels by October 1<sup>st</sup>, and providing paper copies when requested.

### **PART III.**

#### **ADOPTION**

This District-wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the agendas from quarterly Title I Parent Advisory Committee meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Powhatan County School Board on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)