

TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Board of Education endorses the parent involvement goals of Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Therefore, it encourages the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education, including the development and implementation of district programs, activities, and procedures designed to carry out NCLB parent involvement goals.

In accordance with NCLB requirements, the district will:

1. involve parents in the joint development of its Title I plan. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of children participating in Title 1 programs, the district will submit any parent comments to the State Education Department along with its plan;
2. involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.
3. provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in their own planning and implementation of effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
4. build the capacity of its schools and parents for parental involvement;
5. coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with Reading Recovery, the Volunteer Programs, and Information Nights
6. conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools; and
7. involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I.

Additionally, the Board directs that each district school with a program served with Title I funds jointly develop and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy. The policy must be provided to AIS parents as well as the opportunity to provide feedback.

Each Title I school must notify parents of its parent involvement policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. In addition, Title I schools must make their parent involvement policy available to the local community and update it annually to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

To the extent practicable, both the district and its Title I schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Activities in this area include providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

To ensure effective involvement by parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, both the district and each of its Title I schools will:

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, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. provide materials and strategies to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, and to foster parental involvement;
3. to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with public preschools and other programs. They will also conduct other activities, such as parent information nights that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
4. the district and its schools may also consider other activities that further build the capacity of parents to become involved, to the extent those activities are feasible and appropriate.

School Level Policy

- To be written by each building but the guidance information states that a Title 1 school policy must describe the means for:
 1. convening an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title 1 programs, and explain Title 1 requirements and the rights of parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title 1 program will be invited to the meeting;
 2. offering a flexible number of meetings, including morning or evening. It may provide, with funds available under Title 1, for transportation, child care or home visits as such services relate to parental involvement;
 3. involving parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title 1 programs, including planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy.
 4. timely information about Title 1 programs
 5. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and
 6. if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practicable.

Student Academic Achievement School-Parent Compact

A school level Title 1 parent involvement policy must include a school-parent compact that is jointly developed with parents of all participating children.

In general, the compact must outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Specifically, the compact must:

1. describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title 1 to meet the state's student academic achievement standards;
2. describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time;
3. address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through:
 - a) at least annual parent teacher conferences at the elementary level, including a discussion of how the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - b) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
 - c) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.