

The board of education believes that the education of children is an on-going cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. The school system will strive to support parents and provide parents with opportunities to become involved in the programs offered by the Title I schools.

For the purposes of this policy and the Title I program, the term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in the decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- that the school district engages in activities to support parental involvement in the Title I programs.

A. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM

The purpose of the Title I program is to provide instructional activities and supportive services over and above those provided by the regular school program for eligible economically disadvantaged students. Where applicable, students will be selected to receive Title I services based on objective criteria that are consistent with federal and state requirements, such as standardized test scores, teacher judgment, results of pre-school screening and home-school surveys.

Qualified Title I schools will operate as schoolwide programs or targeted assisted programs based upon federal eligibility criteria. Schoolwide programs will utilize a comprehensive school improvement process enabling schools to serve all students in the school. Targeted assisted programs will provide services to eligible students in the school having the greatest need for assistance.

B. ANNUAL MEETING

Each year, Title I parents will be invited to an annual meeting at which time parental rights will be explained, programs and activities provided with Title I funds will be discussed and input will be solicited. In addition, all parents will have an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parental involvement policies and plans. Data collected from these findings will be used to revise Title I programs and parent involvement plans.

C. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS

The board believes that the involvement of Title I parents in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff and all school district personnel shall strive to involve parents in activities throughout the school year.

The superintendent shall ensure that this system-level parent involvement policy is developed with, agreed upon with and distributed to parents of participating students. In addition to the district-level parent involvement policy, each school participating in the Title I program will jointly develop and distribute to parents a school level written parental involvement policy that describes the means for carrying out school-level policy, sharing responsibility for student academic achievement, building the capacity of school staff and parents for involvement, and increasing accessibility for participation of all Title I parents including those with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. School level plans will involve parents in the planning and improvement of Title I activities and will provide for the distribution to parents of information on expected student proficiency levels and the school's academic performance.

In addition, the school district and Title I schools will do the following:

- involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Program and the process of school review and improvement by including parents on the school advisory committee and committees that review the Title I program;
- provide coordination, technical assistance and other support from various central office departments necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by collecting and disseminating information on effective parent involvement techniques;
- coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parent involvement activities in other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First and similar programs;
- with the involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school district parent involvement policies and program to determine current and future needs, and ensure that such policies are

developed/modified with, agreed upon with and distributed each fall to parents of participating students;

- strive to eliminate barriers of parental participation by assisting parents who are disabled, economically-disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, are migratory or have other backgrounds or characteristics that may affect participation, including making a conscientious effort, to the extent practicable, to provide all written communication, including parental involvement policies, in a language that is spoken or read at home;
- provide assistance to parents of participating Title I children in understanding the state's testing standards, the assessments used, Title I requirements and all national, state and local standards and expectations through such efforts as community based meetings, sending information home, newsletters, workshops and newspaper articles;
- design a parent, student, school staff compact that sets out respective responsibilities in striving to raise student achievement and explains how an effective home/school partnership will be developed and maintained;
- with the assistance of parents, ensure that teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff are educated in the value of parents as partners in the educational process and understand how to work with, communicate with and reach out to parents as equal partners in education;
- distribute to parents information on expected student proficiency levels for their child and the school's academic performance, and provide materials and training to help parents monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve achievement through such methods as technology or literacy training;
- coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs with pre-school programs and conduct other activities in the community that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their child;
- strengthen the partnership with agencies, businesses and programs that operate in the community;
- ensure that parents are involved in the school's Title I activities, including being a part of the School Improvement Team (SIT); and
- provide such other reasonable support for Title I parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

In addition, each school may do the following:

- provide necessary literary training from funds received under Title I, Part A if the school system exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- 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 meetings and training sessions;
- train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents by arranging school meetings and in-home conferences with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establish a system-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matter related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I funds;
- develop appropriate roles for community based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to implement the requirements of this policy.

Legal References: *No Child Left Behind Act*, Public Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425-2094; 20 U.S.C. § 6311 et seq.; 20 U.S.C. § 6318; State Board Policy EEO-R-000

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100)

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