

# Cylde L. Fischer's Title I School-Level Parental Involvement

This policy describes the means for carrying out designated Title I parental involvement requirements virtually and/or in person.

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## **Title I School-Level Parental Involvement Policy Clyde L. Fischer Middle School**

Fischer Middle School has developed a written Title I parental involvement policy with input from Title I parents. The policy was developed using parent input during parent cafés, PTO meetings, ELAC/School Site Council, and through parent surveys. The school has distributed the policy to parents of Title I students through weekly fliers, the school website, and by sharing the information at a parent café. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parental involvement requirements [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(a)-(f) inclusive].

### **Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program**

To involve parents in the Title I program at Fischer Middle School, the following practices have been established:

- The school convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. The administrators describe the details of Title I and the ways parents can be involved during a parent cafe and during ELAC/School Site Council.
- The school offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Parent cafe occurs monthly on a predetermined day at 5:30 PM, and the ELAC/School Site Council meets at least five times annually on predetermined days at 5:30 PM.
- The school involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the Title I parental involvement policy. During parent cafe, parents provide input on school practices that support the students. During ELAC/School Site Council, parents provide input and approve of budget allocations for school programs; parents, certificated and classified staff, and the principal review school programming when discussing and approving the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)\*. For parent surveys, parents are asked to rate and provide comments regarding school practices that are grounded in the school's vision and core values.

- The school provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs. Parents are initially informed of the school's Title I programs during 6th grade orientation (April prior to the school year) and Back-to-School-Night (September). Parents are continually informed of parent cafes, ELAC/School Site Council meetings, and other forums regarding school programming through ParentLink, ParentSquare, monthly newsletters, and fliers.
- Through our partnership with Silicon Valley Education Foundation, California Emerging Technology Fund and School 2 Home parents of Title I students are provided with opportunities to receive workshops in digital literacy, affordable broadband, Echo (our learning management system), and digital citizenship.
- The school provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Information about curriculum, measures of accountability, and student goals are shared school-wide at Back-to-School-Night, parent cafe, and ELAC/School Site Council. The ELPAC assessment is discussed with parents at the English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) meeting. Teachers inform families of individual measures of progress and students' goals during Student Led Conferences, which occur at least twice a school year.
- If requested by parents of Title I students, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.

*\*The SPSA must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and the school. The school site leadership strives to include parents representative of Title I students to plan and design the school's programs. [20 USC 6318 Section 1118(c)(3)]*

### **School-Parent Compact**

Fischer Middle School distributes to parents of Title I students a school-parent compact. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities

The teacher-student-parent compact is revisited and revised each year after receiving input from parent surveys, parent cafes, ELAC/School Site Council meetings, and Student Led Conferences. This compact is to be distributed and signed during the first month of school. The school compact is developed from the district-provided compact, which can be found at the following webpage:

<http://www.arusd.org/cms/lib7/CA01001158/Centricity/Domain/1589/Generic%20Parent%20Compact%202016.pdf>

### **Building Capacity for Involvement**

Fischer Middle School engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school has established the following practices.

- The school provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children. This information is provided during our 6th grade orientation meeting and Back-to-School Night. Also, the administrative team backwards-plans the school year's parent cafe topics with the school counselor and the community liaison in order to provide parents with timely support of understanding district's and school's Title I practices and programs along with measures of accountability.
- The school provides Title I parents with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement. Along with orienting families to Fischer programs and practices at orientation and Back-to-School Night, teachers have a chance to support parents more closely at Student Led Conferences. After students present their progress in each class, the teacher-student-parent team brainstorms how each member of the team can contribute to the students' growth. Input from staff meetings, parent cafes, surveys, among many other forums also help the school site leadership identify areas of need and determine trainings that parents would benefit from.
- With the assistance of Title I parents, the school educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and in how to work with parents as equal partners. At least once a trimester, the administrative team compiles the parent survey and student culture survey data. Then they present the data with guiding questions to the staff to identify team strengths and areas of improvement in order to best support students and their families. Parents and teachers work as equal partners at Student Led Conference, where the student, parent, and teacher develop an action plan to support the student's goals for progress.
- The school coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to

encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Family engagement opportunities occur monthly; this is where parents and staff build community, which builds relationships to the extent that parents can provide more qualitative feedback about Title I programs at the school. These events include -- and are not limited to -- parent cafes, ELAC/School Site Council meetings, campus beautification days, academic exhibition events, grade-level socials, community resource fairs, and Honor Roll Award ceremonies. Also, we have a full-time community liaison on site who supports the school with increasing family engagement by readily translating for Spanish-speaking parents, planning Parent Cafes with administrators and community agencies, and recruiting and supporting students through community outreach.

- The school distributes Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand. Fischer distributes Monthly newsletters in English and Spanish. These, along with fliers that consist of school, district, and community announcements, are distributed Tuesday afternoons for the students to take home to their families. The community liaison and administrative assistant also work together to disseminate information in English and Spanish about parent programs, meetings, and other activities through ParentLink (automated phone calls), ParentSquare (smartphone app), and personalized phone calls as needed. Grade-level teams send out emails in English and Spanish about important school and grade-level events and announcements. The PTO announces events through email and the school Facebook page.
- The school provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents. At the first parent cafe, parents shared their vision for their child's journey toward college. Using their vision as an anchor, parents made requests for parent cafe topics that they believed were essential to support their child's journey. The administrative team, school counselor, and community liaison met to backwards plan the parent cafe topics and to enlist the appropriate community resources to meet the parents' requests. This school year's parent cafe topics include sharing Fischer's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) data; observing rigorous curriculum in action by conducting classroom walkthroughs; providing a detailed presentation of our Title I programs and parent participation practices; introducing restorative justice practices to support with parenting; and discussing physical, mental, and social-emotional wellness.

### **Accessibility**

Fischer Middle School provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand. The school provides parents with documents that are available in English and in Spanish. All paperwork or documentation that is sent home is in a consistent format that is easy to understand. The school meets parent requests for documentation in other languages by

enlisting support from the district's Student Services and State and Federal departments.