

POLICY

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TITLE I - DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

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 school district's 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 limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the school district's 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 New Jersey Department of Education.



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In the event the school district is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the district's Title I, Part A allocation, the school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five 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 Title I schools in the district 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 pupil academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
3. 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; and
4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.



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DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below under Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA:

1. The district 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:

Develop and implement a Parent Advisory Council comprised of stakeholders of all aspects from the school and the community. The committee will meet and include on their agendas initiatives that incorporate parental involvement activities.

2. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

Develop and implement a District-wide committee comprised of stakeholders of all aspects from the District and the community. The committee will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement by participating in the development and evaluation of the Basic Skills (Title IA) Program.

3. The district 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 pupil academic achievement and school performance:

Maintain an up-to-date district website to inform parents and stakeholders about district/school-related activities and upcoming events. In addition, District newsletters, as well as school bulletins will be sent home. Technical assistance will be provided to parents through the monthly distribution of various newsletters.



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4. The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - a. Basic Skill Instruction Math and ELA.
 - b. K-Xcel
 - c. Odyssey Learning

5. The school district 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.

Parental Involvement meetings will be held annually to review, evaluate, and revise the school's Parental Involvement Policy. Additionally, after each parent event an evaluation tool will be distributed allowing parents the opportunity to provide feedback.

The school district will build the school's 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 pupil academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:



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1. 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 below:
 - a. New Jersey's academic content standards;
 - b. New Jersey's pupil academic achievement standards;
 - c. The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - d. The requirements of Part A;
 - e. How to monitor their child's progress; and
 - f. How to work with educators.

2. 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 use technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by providing parent presentations including, but not limited to:
 - a. School Math Night;
 - b. School Language Arts Night;
 - c. NJASK Information Night;
 - d. Fall Parent Conferences and frequent communication via email, phone or face-to-face meetings.



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3. 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 the following strategies, including but not limited to:
 - a. New Teacher Orientation;
 - b. Faculty Meetings;
 - c. Mentor/Mentee meetings;
 - d. Professional Development opportunities for staff;
 - e. Staff Professional Development Day seminars;
 - f. Faculty Professional Development Communities.

4. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children, by:
 - a. Providing training in Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB);
 - b. Maintaining an active Parent-Teacher-Organization, which assists in the planning and conducting of home-school connection activities;
 - c. Implementing appropriate parent meetings at key transition points such as Sixth and Ninth Grade Orientation.



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5. The school district will take action to ensure that information related to 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.

Bilingual communication shall be included, but not limited to: report cards, progress reports, emails, postcards, letters to the home, newsletters, announcements, and school staff who are able to converse with parents in both English and Spanish.

TITLE I School Parental Involvement

Title I regulations require that each school served under Title I jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating children, a written involvement policy agreed on by the parents that describes the requirements of SEC. 1118 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, subsections (c) through (f), as listed below and outlined in the Title I law:

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Each school served under this part shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;



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3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy;
4. Provide parents of participating children:
 - (a) timely information about programs under this part;
 - (b) 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
 - (c) 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 such suggestions as soon as practicably possible;

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part:



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- (1) Shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- (2) Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
- (3) Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in 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 school;
- (4) Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- (5) Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;



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- (6) May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- (7) May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- (8) May 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;
- (9) May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- (10) May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- (11) May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- (12) May establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
- (13) May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and



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(14) Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

Adopted: 11 February 2013

Amended: 23 March 2015

