

Title I Parent Involvement

- I. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's Title I Parent Involvement policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law.
 - A. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan:
 1. An annual meeting of parents of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. The meeting shall be held at the district board room the last Tuesday of September at 6:30 P.M. Teachers and paraprofessionals who work with Title I students, parents of Title I students, Building Administrators, School District Superintendent, School Board Members, the Federal Programs Director and the Federal Programs Secretary will be invited to take part in the meeting. The Federal Programs Director will be responsible for planning the annual meeting.
 2. Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the development, operation and evaluation of the program. During the beginning of the year open houses will be held at all Title I schools. Parents of Title I students will be encouraged to sign up as volunteers in classrooms. Parents will also be invited to serve on a committee whose members evaluate Title I programs at the different schools. There is introduction meeting and a culminating meeting where parents can participate in development, operation, and evaluation of the program.
 3. Parents will be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. The district will continue encourage teacher communication with parents and parent communication with teachers.
 - B. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:
 1. Parents will be given the opportunity to review the school improvement plan. This opportunity will be provided at the annual meeting of parents of participating Title I students held at the district boardroom the last Tuesday of September at 6:30 P.M.
 2. Parents will be encouraged to participate in the building self-review. In the early spring each building will send out a newsletter, which will contain an article requesting parents to volunteer to serve on the Title I building review committee.
 - C. The district will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities:
 1. Identify barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities;
 2. Use findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement; and
 3. Revise, when necessary, the district and school parent involvement policies.
 - D. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with similar strategies under the following other programs, such as:

- Head Start;
- Even Start;
- Learning Assistance Program;
- Special Education; and
- State-operated preschool programs.

The district shall facilitate removing barriers to parental involvement by activities such as:

1. Conducting joint parent meetings with other programs;
 2. Holding meetings at various times of the day and evening;
 3. Arranging for in home conferences;
 4. Title I funds may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meeting by payment of transportation and childcare costs.
- E. The district will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
- F. The district will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through the following:
1. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide information to parents of children served by the school district of school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The State's essential academic learning requirements,
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - How to monitor their child's progress, and
 - How to work with educators. The district will assist parents by having conferences up to two times a year. Progress reports will be sent how quarterly. Parents are encouraged to call their child's teacher if there are questions.
 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, by:
 - a. Giving guidance as to how parents can assist at home in the education of their child;
 - b. Holding parent meetings at various times of the day and evening to provide parents:
 - Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - Opportunities to submit parent comments about the program to the district.
 - Opportunities to meet with the classroom and Title I, Part A teachers to discuss their children's progress.
- G. School district personnel will work with teachers, principals and other staff, to reach out to, communicate with, and engage parents as equal partners. The district will provide:
1. An explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program;
 2. A description and explanation of the school's curriculum;

3. Information in the academic assessment used to measure student progress;
4. Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and
5. Information will be communicated to parents via school newsletter and/or personal mailing.

H. The school district will take the 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:

1. Distribute the Title 1 Family Involvement policy on an annual basis. This policy will be sent home with each student in their beginning of the school year form package. The policy will also be posted on the district web site.
2. To the extent needed and practicable, distribute the Title 1 Family involvement policy in multiple languages or formats.

II. School –Based Parent Involvement Policy

In addition to the district-wide policy on family involvement, each school offering Title 1, Part A services will have a separate school building parent involvement policy. The building-level title 1, Part A parent involvement policy will meet the following requirements: a) Each building in the district receiving Title 1, Part A funds shall jointly develop with and distribute one to parents of students served in the program a written building-level policy, agreed upon by parents of Title 1 served students; b) the policy will outline how parents school staff and students share responsibility for student achievement in meeting academic standards; c) Parents will be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format; d) To the extent practicable, the policy will be provided in a language the parents can understand; and e) The policy will be evaluated with parents annually.

Adopted by the Board 12.15.08
Ephrata School District