

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
MONONGALIA COUNTY
2023-2024

Part 1: General Expectations:

The Local Education Agency, Monongalia County Schools, agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Local Educational Agency (LEA) will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The LEA will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This includes a home/school compact for schools in the LEA receiving Title I funding.
- The LEA will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under ESEA.
- The LEA 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 ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA parent involvement plan developed under ESEA is not satisfactory to parents, Monongalia County Schools will submit any parent comments with the plan WV Department of Education.
- The LEA will include the parents of children in schools receiving Title I, Part A funding in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools served by Title I.
- The LEA will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement from the law and expects that schools 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 student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-
 - (a) that parents play an important role in assisting their child's learning;
 - (b) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - (c) 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;
 - (d) that the activities described in ESEA and in this policy are carried out.
- The LEA will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of parent involvement events and resources when applicable by sending flyers home to parents in schools, using parent communication programs such as Remind, posting on social media accounts, and/or collaborating with Head Start, Early Head Start, Preschool, Title I, and community agencies.

Part II: Monongalia County Schools will implement required Parental Involvement Policy components as described in the section below:

- To involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under ESEA, Monongalia County Schools will:
 - seek parent representation at LEA functions as well as on each school's planning team.
 - seek input and suggestions from parent representatives to the LEA from school-level teams and committees, such as Local School Improvement Council (LSIC), Strategic Planning Team, Parent Advisory Committee and the PTA/PTO.
- To involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under ESEA, the LEA will:
 - assist each school in arranging an annual meeting to inform parents of the goals, objectives, and activities and services as described in each school's Strategic Plan.
 - invite and encourage all parents to attend the informational meeting. These school meetings will be held by the end of October.
 - encourage each school to maximize the opportunity for parents to participate by offering a flexible number of meetings and activities at a variety of times.
 - ensure the Home/School Compact, required in Title I-funded schools, is reviewed and discussed with parents as it relates to the individual child's achievement.
- The LEA will provide necessary assistance and support to participating schools as they plan and implement effective parent involvement by:
 - providing guidance in the development of building level parent involvement policies and compacts where required.
 - ensuring that parent involvement policies and compacts are distributed to parents of all children in Title I schools.
 - recommending effective parent involvement literature, materials, and/or programs.
 - training teachers to effectively work with parents.
 - training Parent Involvement Coordinators from each Title I school on strategies to increase parent involvement in their respective schools.
- The LEA will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with Title I, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Preschool by:
 - implementing a Preschool Transition Plan in each school.
 - Co-sponsoring workshops and encouraging attendance and/or participation in activities that serve the needs of all groups.
 - providing materials, home visits, and training (such as literacy training to assist parents in working with their children and training to help parents work to improve their children's achievement).
- The LEA will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent involvement policy in improving the quality of its 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 a racial or ethnic minority background).
 - Parent Involvement Coordinators will provide documentation annually to evaluate parent involvement activities.
 - The LEA will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, its parental involvement policies.
- The LEA will promote the schools' and parents' capacity to form a strong partnership and work toward high achievement in each school by:
 - encouraging and assisting parents and teachers to work together toward common goals.
 - assisting parents in understanding the state student academic achievement standards.

- providing parents with frequent reports on their child’s academic progress through report cards, summative assessment results, and progress monitoring reports for grades K-5.
- providing materials and training (such as literacy training to assist parents in working with their children, training to assist parents with parenting skills and child development, and training to help parents work to improve their children’s achievement).
- encouraging coordination of parent involvement activities with Preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Extended Day programs by sharing information, co-sponsoring workshops, and encouraging attendance and/or participation in activities that serve the needs of all groups.
- encouraging schools to develop partnerships with community-based organizations and businesses that sponsor programs, workshops and training, and enable parent participation in schools through adjusted work schedules.
- ensuring, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in such homes.
- providing training for teachers, principals, and other educators on ways to improve parent involvement services and how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.
- paying 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 (applicable only to Title I schools).
- training parent leaders/Parent Involvement Coordinators in order to enhance the parent involvement programs.
- assuring that schools offer meetings at a variety of times to maximize the opportunity for parents to participate in school-related activities.
- The LEA will promote communication through parent-teacher-student conferences, newsletters, progress reports, home visits, electronic communications, etc., to assist parents in:
 - developing an understanding of their role in monitoring their child’s progress.
 - working with educators to improve the performance of their child.
 - receiving information as to how they can participate in decisions relating to the education of their child.
- The LEA will ensure that each Title I School’s Parent Involvement Policy is shared with all students and that the policy includes a statement that “parents have the right to request information about the qualifications of their child’s teacher(s)”.

The District-Wide Parent Involvement Policy has been developed with Parent Involvement Coordinators, who serve as representatives of parents in each Title I school, and school and district personnel.

This Parent Involvement Policy was reviewed, updated and approved through technical assistance from West Virginia Department of Education, and also by Monongalia County parent, teacher and administrative representatives on May 26, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year. The LEA will distribute this policy to all parents of children in Monongalia County Schools via posting on the MCS website.