Policy Code: 1320/3560 Title I Parent and Family Engagement

The board of education believes that the education of children is an ongoing cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents and other family members are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents and family members in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. School system officials shall strive to support parents and provide parents and family members with opportunities to become involved in the programs offered by the Title I schools. The Board encourages parents and family members to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the school system's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards.

A. Definition of Parental Involvement

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

1. that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

2. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

3. that parents and family members 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. that the school system utilizes activities to support parent and family engagement in the Title I programs.

B. Purpose and Operation of Title I Program

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the school system's challenging academic standards. The Title I program provides instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

Qualified Title I schools will operate as school-wide programs or targeted assisted programs based upon federal eligibility criteria. School-wide programs will provide comprehensive support to offer improved opportunities for all students in the school to meet the school system's academic standards. Targeted assistance programs will provide services to eligible students most in need of assistance in the school, as determined by objective criteria established by the superintendent or designee. Eligibility criteria may include, for example, standardized test scores, teacher judgment, and results of preschool screening and home-school surveys.

Both school-wide and targeted assistance programs shall be based on effective means of improving student achievement and shall include evidence-based strategies to support parent and family engagement.

C. Annual Meeting

Each year, school officials must invite parents of students participating in Title I programs to a

meeting to explain parental rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials must provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity to annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parent and family engagement policies and plans.

D. Parent and Family Engagement Efforts

The board believes that the involvement of Title I parents and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year.

The superintendent shall ensure that this system-level parent and family engagement policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon with and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students. In addition to the system-level parent and family engagement plan, each school participating in the Title I program shall jointly develop and annually distribute to parents and family members a school-level written parent and family engagement plan 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 parents and family members of children participating in Title I programs, including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, who have disabilities, or who are migratory. School-level plans must involve parents in the planning and improvement of Title I activities and must provide for the distribution to parents of information on expected student achievement levels and the school's academic performance.

School officials shall invite appropriate school personnel from private schools to consult on the design and development of its programs in order to provide equitable services to students enrolled in private schools. The superintendent or designee will establish procedures to achieve timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials in accordance with federal law.

In addition, school system officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

1. involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Program and the process of school review and improvement by including parents on a school advisory committee or committees that review the Title I program;

2. provide coordination, technical assistance and other support from various central office departments necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance;

3. build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by collecting and disseminating information on effective parental involvement techniques;

4. coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parental involvement activities in other programs, such as Head Start, and similar programs;

5. with the involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school system parental involvement policies and program in improving the academic quality of the school;

6. strive to eliminate barriers to parental participation by assisting parents with disabilities

and parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, are migratory, or have other backgrounds or characteristics that may affect participation;

7. 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, virtual access, and newspaper articles;

8. 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;

9. 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;

10. 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;

11. coordinate and integrate parental 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;

12. strengthen the partnership with agencies, businesses and programs that operate in the community;

13. ensure that parents are involved in the school's Title I activities; and

14. provide such other reasonable support for Title I parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

E. Notice Requirements

School system officials and Title I school personnel shall provide effective notice of the following information as required by law. The notice must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

1. LEP Program

a. Each year the principal or designee shall provide notice of the following to parents of limited English proficient (LEP) children identified for participation in a Title I, Part A-funded language-instruction educational program:

i. the reasons for the child's identification;

ii. the child's level of English proficiency;

iii. methods of instruction;

iv. how the program will help the child;

v. the exit requirements for the program;

vi. if the child has a disability, how the language instruction educational program meets the objectives of the child's individualized educational program (IEP); and

vii. any other information necessary to effectively inform the parent of the program and the parental rights regarding enrollment, removal and selection of an LEP program.

b. The principal or designee of a school with a Title I, Part A-funded language instruction program that has failed to make progress on the annual achievement objectives for LEP students, shall notify the parents of such failure no later than 30 days after the failure occurs.

2. System Report Card and School Progress Review

a. Each year, school system officials shall disseminate to all parents, schools and the public a school system report card containing aggregate information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category), graduation rates, performance of the school system and teacher qualifications.

b. Each year, school system officials shall disseminate to all parents, schools and the community the results of the LEA's yearly progress review of each school.

3. Teacher Qualifications

a. Each year, school system officials shall notify parents of Title I students (1) of the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child and (2) that such information will be provided in a timely manner (see policy 7820, Personnel Files).

b. The principal or designee of a Title I school shall provide timely notice informing parents that their student has been assigned to or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

4. Student's Academic Growth and Achievement

School officials shall provide to each parent of a student who is participating in a Title I program information on the level of achievement and academic growth, if applicable and available, of the student on each of the state's academic assessments.

5. Parental Rights and Opportunities for Involvement

a. Each year, the principal or designee of a Title I school shall provide notice to parents of the school's written parental policy, parents' right to be involved in their child's school, and opportunities for parents to be involved in the school.

b. At the beginning of each school year, the principal or designee of a Title I school shall provide notice to parents of (1) their right to request information regarding student participation in state-required assessments and (2) that such information will

be provided in a timely manner.

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

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 200.; 20 U.S.C. 7801(32); *Public School Choice Non-Regulatory Guidance*, U.S. Department of Education (January 14, 2009); *Supplemental Educational Services Non-Regulatory Guidance*, U.S. Department of Education (January 14, 2009); U.S. Department of Education approval of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request (May 29, 2012)

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Personnel Files (policy 7820)

Other Resources: *Giving Parents Options: Strategies for Informing Parents and Implementing Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services Under No Child Left Behind*, U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement (September 2007)

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