



# North Adams Community Schools

625 Stadium Dr.  
Decatur, IN 46733

*Excellence: Teach it, Model it, Inspire it, Achieve it!*

## ***North Adams Community Schools District/LEA Title I Parent Involvement Policy***

### **Statement of Purpose**

North Adams Community Schools is dedicated to providing quality education for all children. Parental support and involvement is crucial for their children's success at every step. North Adams believes that parents are the child's first and foremost teachers, beginning at birth and continuing throughout the child's life. North Adams values parent involvement in our schools and is committed to establishing partnerships with parents and the community.

"Serving as a trusted agent of the community, the mission of the North Adams Community Schools is to provide life-long learning opportunities for individuals to grow and succeed in a changing world." Our goal is EXCELLENCE: Teach it, Model it, Inspire it, Achieve it! Indiana Academic Standards for each grade are shared annually with parents, aligning with the belief that all students will successfully achieve and develop to their fullest potential. North Adams recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach these goals. With that vision, North Adams aims to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program, in order to forge school-home partnerships that will help children succeed.

### **1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Parent Involvement Plan and the process of school review, and improvement**

Many types of parental involvement are needed in the school-home-community partnership that will help all our children to succeed. Parents are encouraged to not only participate in as many parent involvement activities as possible, but to also be a part of the planning and review process necessary for continuous school improvement. Specific steps are taken to include parents:

- All Title I parents are invited to attend an Annual Meeting, where written parent feedback on programming is sought; The Title I Director is also present to answer questions and address any concerns.
- All Title I parents are invited to evaluate Title I Parent Involvement Policies, Student Progress, Title I Program, and Parent Involvement Activities at the Annual Meeting, as well as by completing an End of Year written evaluation; The year end evaluations are completed by parents anonymously, sent to the Title I Director, and reviewed by the Title I District Team;
- Additional Title I parent input is gathered informally at fall parent-teacher conferences and via telephone conversations throughout the year; teachers make



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written note of concerns or suggestions and share at the Title I Team meetings (district-wide meetings held monthly).

- North Adams involves parents on various school teams/committees that adopt textbooks/curriculum and monitor School Improvement Plans and Title I School Wide Plans.

## **2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

North Adams Community Schools will provide coordination of funds and services, technical assistance, and other support to help Title I schools in planning and implementing effective Title I programs and parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and performance. These efforts will include:

- Title I Director will meet monthly with all Title I staff and elementary principals to oversee implementation of Title I programs at each school
- Title I Director will coordinate Title I services and activities with related programs including North Adams Preschool, Adams Wells Special Education Cooperative Preschool, Early Intervention projects, and general education literacy efforts through direct administration of the programs or through participating in an advisory capacity
- Title I Director will support the professional development of Title I teachers and classroom teachers by coordinating district professional development funds
- Title I Director will facilitate district-wide planning of Family Learning activities

## **3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by and involve parents in Title I school activities by:**

- a. Providing assistance to parents in understanding Indiana Academic Standards, monitoring their child's progress, and how to help their children succeed

All Title I parents annually review the Indiana Academic Standards for their child's grade level, and this information is covered in detail at the Title I Annual Meeting and posted in the Title I rooms. Additionally, North Adams provides each parent with a parent-friendly guide that explains assessments used at North Adams, and overviews of various programs implemented, including Title I. All parents also receive copies of their child's annual ISTEP+ Assessment, as well summaries of their child's NWEA benchmark assessments. Teachers meet with parents at Fall conferences to discuss individual student progress, and to



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offer specific suggestions on each child's academic needs and ways parents can support their child's progress. Additional parent conferences are held for students needing additional support.

- b. Providing materials and training for parents to help their children improve

District Title 1 Family Learning Programs are held three to four times per year and are developed and implemented by the District Title I Director and School Title I teams. Parents from all Title I programs, Early Intervention programs, Special Education primary students, and English Learner elementary students are invited to attend. Topics include ***District and Title I Reading Curriculum Review, District Assessment explanations, Reading Strategies to Practice at Home, and School-Home Digital Resources***. At each program, a parent-child literacy activity is demonstrated, and parents receive guided practice. Families will receive supporting resources, at these events. Children who cannot attend the evening activity receive the materials to take home. Families also receive additional summer reading books and accompanying learning activities for use during the summer, in an effort to avoid Summer Reading slump.

- c. Educate educators, with the assistance of parents, in building strong parent-teacher relationships

All NACS teachers receive in-house training on subjects like "Communicating with Parents," and "Conducting Parent Teacher Conferences." The district also supports ongoing staff training at the school level by purchasing study books and materials and providing guidance on current research and articles related to fostering positive parent-teacher relationships.

- d. Ensure that parents receive information related to Title I parent programs, meetings and activities

The District Title I Office provides support through helping schools produce flyers describing Title I activities, and mailings related to Title I programs including Highly Qualified staff. The district also provides individual schools with related information that can be published in the weekly school newsletters. NACS provides a comprehensive website, with links to individual school's websites, for communicating school-related events and information. NACS also uses Power School so that parents have ongoing and immediate access to their child's grades. Parents of English Learners are provided with translators upon request for parent-teacher conferences and school activities.



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Written communication is also translated when possible, and all Title I schools have electronic translation devices (iPads) for use with parents.

- e. Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities, including participating in school Title I activities.

The district supports each school in sharing responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with parents of children participating in the program. The compact outlines how parents, staff and students will share in promoting high student achievement. The Title I Director reviews these compacts annually.

Additionally, the district provides support for school Title I activities through mailings, flyer preparation, bulk materials purchasing, transportation, and support staff at school events. A district Title I Summer Reading Program is held in June targeting all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who did not pass IREAD, as well as other K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade struggling readers. Parents receive progress monitoring reports and are invited to attend an open house at the end of the program.

#### **4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with strategies under other programs such as state-run preschools**

- a. Coordinate Title I activities with other intervention programs

All elementary students are screened at the beginning of the year using researched based tools to identify which students are below, at, and above benchmark. Struggling students are then identified for interventions, using a variety of available resources and programs including Title I, Early Intervention programs (when awarded through state grants), remediation programs, English Learner, McKinney Vento, and Special Education resources. Students are continually progress monitored, with adjustments made in intervention activities so that intervention matches student learning needs. All Early Intervention programs use the evidence-based curriculum Leveled Literacy Intervention.

North Adams will coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies offered through other local programs by:

- NACS holds a spring Kindergarten Round-Up for incoming Kindergarten students where parents register their child, receive vision and hearing screenings, information on transportation/bussing, participate in literacy screening and tour the school
- All Title I families are encouraged to attend school parent involvement activities such as Open House, Parent Teacher conferences, and PTO-related events



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- Parents may call the NACS office (260.724.7146) or their school at any time to express an interest in a particular workshop or to make a suggestion about additional parent involvement activities.

## **5. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served and using the findings to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise policies**

North Adams Community Schools will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the North Adams District/School Title I Parent Involvement Policy. The evaluation will include a format for written and verbal feedback and will occur at the Fall Annual Meeting and through the Spring Program evaluations. Specific information to be evaluated:

- Understandability of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy and Title I Home-School Compact
- Participation in Title I parent involvement activities
- Barriers to parent participation and steps to overcome these barriers (including language, transportation, scheduling, etc.)
- Overall satisfaction with the Title I program
- Parent perceptions of their child's academic improvement

## **6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I**

The North Adams District Title I Director will oversee and participate in the planning of all school Title I Parent Involvement Activities and strategies. The Director attends the events, reviews parent attendance /comments, and facilitates the Title I team evaluation of these events with the focus on involving more parents and improving the quality of the event based on parent interest and evaluation. The Title I Director also meets regularly with the school principals to discuss Title I parent involvement in general school activities and helps the principal to identify potential Title I and English Learner parents to solicit their involvement in school leadership committees.