

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

The Durant Board of Education holds the philosophy that parents and the community as a whole are very important to the success of the school district. In implementation of this belief and in compliance with State Department of Education standards, the board will involve parents in school activities and utilize parental and community resources in the instructional/learning program of the school. Also, the board promotes the use of school facilities before and after regular school hours for parent and community involvement.

The board further encourages private employers to give time off to employees who have school-age children to attend parent-teacher conferences at least once each semester.

The district also supports parent educational programs that provide assistance to parents of children ages 0 through 3.

The board expects an effective system of communication to exist between and among school district patrons, the board of education, administrative staff, teachers, support personnel and students. In the belief that this "open communication" concept should prevail, board members individually, as well as the board as a whole, pledges every effort to maintain open channels for discussion with any person whatever the issue or concern might be.

### **DURANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY (Title I, Part A Programs)**

#### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the district's expectations for parental involvement. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] The district agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its individual 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 and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

5. If the LEA 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 State Department of Education.
6. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools when the Title I, Part A allocation exceeds \$500,000.
7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I 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 integral 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. *the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*
8. The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the parental information and resource center in the state.

**PART II. DISTRICT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

The district will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [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:
  - *Each school site included a parent representative on the site-level Title I*

*School-wide Planning Committee and school patrons were invited to contact the Title I parent representative to provide specific input.*

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:**

- Timely publication and dissemination of the results of student annual progress to parents, teachers, principals and the school community.
- Promptly provide parents with specific information regarding any school site that has been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring, including:
  - An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other elementary or secondary schools served by the district and the State educational agency involved;
  - The reasons for the identification;
  - An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement, including parent input/consultation in the development or revision of the required school improvement plan and a listing of strategies to promote more effective parent involvement at the school;
  - An explanation of the parents' option to transfer their child to another public school, including the provision of transportation to the new school, and information on the academic achievement of the school or schools to which the child may transfer;
  - If the school is in its second year of improvement or is subject to corrective action or restructuring, a notice explaining how parents can obtain supplemental education services for their child, including: (a) the identity of approved providers of those services available within the Western Heights Public Schools; and (b) a brief description of the services, qualifications, and demonstrated effectiveness of the providers; and (c) if requested, assistance in choosing a provider.
- Durant Public Schools will also publish and disseminate to parents and to the public, information regarding any actions taken by the school or the district to address the problems that led to the identification of a school for improvement, including: (a) an explanation of what the school is doing to address the problem of low achievement; (b) an explanation of what the district is doing to address the problem of low achievement; and (c) a description of corrective actions or restructuring plans.
- In order to address section 200.61 **Parents' Rights to Know** of the final regulations of the No Child Left Behind Act, it is the policy of Durant Public Schools to notify parents of participating children at the beginning of each school year that parents may request and the district will provide information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

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 student academic achievement and school performance:**

- Durant Public Schools will provide assistance to parents of children through a site-based initiative to deepen parental 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 of the law, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. Each Title I school site will facilitate Parent Nights where a variety of "mini-workshops" are offered on a number of parent involvement topics (including the ones listed

- in this section). The Parent Night also invites community support groups to set up a station at the event, to introduce parents and students to community resources that improve the quality of life and foster a collaborative culture for student achievement.
- DPS will provide of materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. This is also a common focus of all site and district-wide Parent Nights. When applicable, Title I funds are used to purchase take-home, read-along books for elementary students and their parents.
  - DPS will 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.
  - The school district will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format to, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Translators are provided (in Spanish) for individual parent-teacher meetings and also at Parent Night activities. Information regarding these meetings/activities is also provided in writing to the parents in Spanish where applicable.
  - Provision of such other reasonable support for parent involvement activities under this section as parents may request.
4. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: **[Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs]**, by conducting and supporting collaborative activities that will encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children. This includes the negotiation of interagency agreements and/or inclusion of other program personnel in parent-teacher conferences or other meetings pertaining to the educational needs of individual children in such programs.
5. The 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.
- Publication/dissemination of the policy in student handbooks and district newsletters, with the invitation to parents to provide suggestions for policy revision/improvement.
  - Inclusion of parent involvement components in site and district-level surveys of parents that are conducted at least on an annual basis.

6. The district will build the schools' 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 student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the state's student academic achievement standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and
- Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
  - Parent-teacher conferences in schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
- Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

A. 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 in this paragraph --

- i. the State's academic content standards,
- ii. the State's student academic achievement standards,
- iii. the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- iv. the requirements of Part A,
- v. how to monitor their child's progress, and
- vi. how to work with educators:

Durant Public Schools will cover these and other topics during site-based Parent Nights led by district and teacher leaders.

B. 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 using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by sending home classroom newsletters, take-home books, providing specific parent training on academic subjects, and working with parents individually as needed.

- C. 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, by providing training to staff about most effective parental involvement strategies.
- D. 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 more fully participating in the education of their children, by introducing parents to resources available to them.
- E. 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. The district office will use school newsletters, district website, and call outs as appropriate. Information will be translated and provided in other languages, including Spanish, as needed.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The district incorporates as a part of its policy the following discretionary components:

1. involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
2. providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
3. paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
4. training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
5. in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;

6. adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
7. establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
8. developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
9. providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

**PART IV. ADOPTION**

This *District Wide Parental Involvement Policy* has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes of the meeting in which parental involvement and the manner in which that would be achieved was deliberated.

The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children annually.

**Adopted November 5, 2007 by the Durant ISD Board of Education  
Revised by the Board of Education August 10, 2015**