

Twin Cities International Elem. School 4077

Title I Parent Involvement Policy (100B)

Twin Cities International Elem. School 4077 receives Title I and other federal funds and therefore has developed the following District/School Parent Involvement Policy and Procedures. This policy was developed with input from parents, teachers, and administrators and will be distributed annually to parents of children who participate in Title I programs. It will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to meet the changing needs of parents and/or the district.

This policy describes the district/school's expectations of parental involvement, how the district/school will implement specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the district's SERVS application.

Statement of Purpose

The Twin Cities International Elem. School 4077 (TIES) is committed to providing a rigorous American education for children in a culturally sensitive environment. Founded by education leaders in the East African community, this public charter school ultimately seeks to prepare students for successful and productive lives as United State citizens while allowing them to retain their unique cultural heritage. For these reasons, the School wants to establish partnerships with parents and the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by students. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role. Their support for their children and for the School is critical for their child's success.

The School sets curriculum to meet the state standards, hires Highly Qualified staff, and through data analysis sets individual goals for students with the expectation that all students will work toward these goals. These goals are distributed to parents at the Fall Parent Teacher Conference. The School recognizes that most students require the assistance available through the Title I school-wide program to reach those goals. TIES will include parents in planning and reviewing the district/school's title I program. The School goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students succeed.

Parenting

1. TIES will provide technical assistance and support in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities:
 - Providing leadership for these activities from the Director and Title I staff
 - Providing funding for activities with Title I dollars

- Providing secretarial time from the School administration for communication needs
 - Exploring possibilities and collaboration with the Parent Liaison, Community Liaison, and Coordinator of Operations
2. TIES will coordinate Title I parent involvement activities with other agencies' parental activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:
 - communicating and working with the Minneaota International Middle School and Ubah Educational Services programs already housed in our building, as well as our sister school, Ubah Medical Academy High School
 - Coordinating with the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency's immunization and other health related programs
 3. TIES will build the Title I schools' and parents' capacity for parent involvement as described in NCLB Section 118(e) by:
 - Supporting the parent involvement activities with space and personnel
 - Planning and hosting specific parent events during the school year
 - Using the Title I Compact
 - Providing numerous opportunities for parents to volunteer in classrooms
 - Providing weekly and monthly classroom communications to parents
 - Providing classroom/homework information and other supportive educational links through the TIES website.
 4. TIES will assist parents of children being served in Title I programs in understanding the Minnesota State Standards, assessment, and how to monitor a child's progress by:
 - Providing student goals and expectations to parents at Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Providing a copy and explanation of the student's MCA, TEAE, MNSOLOM, AYP, and AMAO results for parents
 - Providing a copy and explanation of the student's NWEA results for parents
 - Setting aside time to go over these results at the Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences

Communication

5. TIES will educate teachers, educational assistants, teaching and other specialists, administration personnel 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 volunteer programs, and build ties between parents and TIES by:

- Discussing parent volunteer programming possibilities and getting parent input at the annual Title I Parent Advisory Committee meeting
 - Addressing this need and brainstorming ideas at a staff meeting
 - Using results and information from the Parent Survey completed at the School Board's Annual General Meeting
6. TIES will ensure that information related to School and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and to the extent practical, in a language that parents can understand by:
- Using School staff to provide the communications in the parents' home language as needed
7. TIES will provide reasonable support for parental involvement activities by:
- Using Title I funds to support these activities and events
 - Providing staff and activities for childcare
 - Holding meetings and other events at times that are convenient to parents
 - Providing secretarial and custodial support at the School

Learning at Home

8. TIES will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children by:
- Providing communication from each content area regarding homework expectations in the Grade Level/School Handbook
 - Providing after-school Homework Centers
 - Providing information for parents regarding state standards and assessment expectations
 - Providing through the School website parental access to websites that offer opportunities for students to practice their academic skills and related parent materials
 - Providing other appropriate links on the School's website

Decision Making

9. TIES will involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Plan under section 1112 (NCLB Application) by:
- Seeking parent ideas and input
 - Using data, ideas, and information from the Parent Survey
 - Reviewing the Title I plan annually with parents at the Parent Advisory Committee meeting

10. TIES will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy and assess how much parent involvement has increased and what the barriers are to parental participation that need to be addressed by:

- Evaluating our school-wide programs annually with a committee made up of staff, parents, and administration at the annual Title I Review Parent Advisory Committee meeting
- Keeping data on participation in parent involvement opportunities
- Getting input from parents if barriers to involvement exist

11. TIES will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for school improvement and to revise the Parent Involvement Policy by:

- Using the annual Title I Parent Advisory Committee meeting to evaluate the program using appropriate student and program assessment data
- Involving parents in reviewing this Policy annually
- Inviting parents to serve on the TIES School Board as Community Representative Members

12. TIES will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 116 of NCLB (if applicable) by:

- Communicating TIES AYP Improvement Plan to parents
- Involve representative parents on the AYP Planning Committee

Reference (17Feb2010)

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/No_Child_Left_Behind_Programs/Parent_Involvement/Parent_Policy_Compact/index.html

Approved: March 13, 2010

Appendix A

Requirements for

The Parent Involvement Policy

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/No_Child_Left_Behind_Programs/Parent_Involvement/Parent_Policy_Compact/index.html

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each district and school that receives

Title I, Part A funds or services must develop jointly with, agree on, and distribute to, parents of participating children, written parental involvement policies that contain information required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These policies establish the district's and school's expectations for parental involvement, describes how the district and school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the district's Electronic Minnesota Accountability Plan (EMAP) application.

Personnel have the option of writing separate District Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures and separate School Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures or combining the two into a District-School Parental Involvement Policy/Procedure. Each of these policy/procedures is outlined below.

The District Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures

School districts, in consultation with parents, can use the sample template provided by the Minnesota Department of Education as a framework for the information to be included in their parental involvement policy/procedure. School districts can follow the sample template or framework to establish the district's expectation for parental involvement and ensure all of the components have been incorporated. School districts, in consultation with parents, are encouraged to include other relevant and agreed upon activities and actions that will support effective parent involvement and strengthen academic achievement.

The School Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures

Schools, in consultation with parents, can follow the sample template as a framework for the information to be included in their parental involvement policy/procedures. Schools can follow this sample template or framework to establish the school's expectation for parent involvement and ensure all of the components have been incorporated. Schools, in consultation with parents, are encouraged to include other relevant and agreed upon activities and actions that will support effective parental involvement and strengthen student academic achievement. The school policy/procedures must include such information as the parent-school compact, annual parent meeting, annual assessment of parental involvement, etc.

The District-School Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures

The District Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures and the School Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures are generally two separate documents; however, for charter schools (with one site) and districts with one school receiving Title I funds, the components for the district and school policies may be addressed in either one policy/procedure (district/school policy/procedure) or two policy/procedures (district policy/procedure and school policy/procedure). If your district/school plans to combine all the requirements of both the district policy/procedures and school policy/procedures, make sure all required components of the district policy/procedures and school policy/procedures are included.

Districts/schools planning to combine the policies into one document, in consultation with parents, can use the sample template as a framework for the information to be included in their district/school parental involvement policy. Districts/schools can follow this sample template or framework to establish the district's /school's expectation for parent involvement and ensure all of the components have been incorporated. Districts/schools, in consultation with parents, are encouraged to include other relevant and agreed-upon activities and actions that will support effective parental involvement and strengthen student academic achievement.

Please keep the following point in mind regarding the District, School, and District/School Parental Involvement Policy/Procedures:

- Each year, you must update the policy/procedures and document how you distributed the policy to parents and the community.
- Are parents given an equal opportunity to provide input? Are they a part of the creation of the policy/procedures, or do you just show them the final product?
- Do you ask parents to evaluate the policy's effectiveness each year?
- Do you ask parents to apply their evaluation to the past school year and what actually happened in their family with their child?