

Tamaqua Area Title I Schools

TAMS - TES

Parental Involvement Policy

May 16, 2006

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Tamaqua Area Schools who receive Title I, Part A funds developed jointly with, agreed upon, and distributed to, parents of participating children this written parental involvement policy which contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy).

This policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).

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PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Tamaqua Area Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will put into operation programs and activities for the involvement of parents with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs and activities will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school will work 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.
- The school will incorporate this into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school 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.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA the school will submit any parent concerns with the plan to the school district with the expectation that the concerns will be submitted to the State Department of Education.
- The school will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how to spend the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school 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.

- The school will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW TAMAQUA SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Tamaqua Area Schools will involve parents in the joint development and/or review of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA during the Spring Parent Involvement meeting.
2. Tamaqua Area Schools will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA during committee involvement of their choice: i.e., Strategic Plan and Review Committee meetings, Safe Schools Committee

meetings, Act 48 Professional Development Committee meetings and Parent Involvement meetings.

3. Tamaqua Area Schools will provide the 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 during committee involvement of their choice: i.e., Strategic Plan and Review Committee meetings, Safe Schools Committee meetings, Act 48 Professional Development Committee meetings and Parent Involvement meetings.

4. Tamaqua Area Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under State-operated and/or local preschool programs, by providing relative information regarding the programs at Open House and Parent Involvement meetings.

5. Tamaqua Area Schools will involve parents in 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. This review will occur annually during the Spring Parent Involvement meeting.

6. Tamaqua Area Schools 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 schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, by making available the following activities specifically described below:

A. The schools will provide assistance to parents of children served in understanding topics such as the following:

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

Information on activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be

necessary to ensure success will be circulated to the parents of students in the program.

- B. The schools will provide materials and offer trainings 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.

Information on activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success will be circulated to the parents of students in the program.

- C. The schools will 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.

Information on activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success will be circulated to the parents of students in the program.

- D. The schools will encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children.

Information on activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success will be circulated to the parents of students in the program.

- E. The schools will 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.

Information on activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success will be circulated to the parents of students in the program.

**PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
POLICY COMPONENTS
INTEND TO INCLUDE:**

- 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;
- 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;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a parent advisory council;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities;
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This School specific 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 _____.

This policy was adopted by the Tamaqua Area School District on 05/16/06 and will be in effect for the period of three years. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September, 2006.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)

