

Wishram School
Family Involvement Policy and Procedures
2015-2016

Part I. How can we work together to provide the best education for our students?

Wishram School is committed to providing a quality education for every child by establishing partnerships with parents, guardians, and the community. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents or guardians play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. The Title 1 and LAP programs can provide the extra assistance some students need to meet the state's high academic standards. Our goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed. In view of the fact that so many of our students are not raised by parents, we have changed the new of the policy to the "Family Involvement Policy."

A. Wishram School will make the **plan available** for everyone to see and evaluate. We work **together with parents to revise** this plan annually and we do this by:

- Meeting each spring in committee to revise the plan for the following year, based on suggestions gleaned throughout the year;
- Distribute the plan at Fall Open House;
- Solicit comments and suggestions at meetings, conversations and by survey;
- Print the policy in the August newsletter;
- Post the policy in the hallway brochure display;
- Review comments on community surveys for needed changes.

B. Annual Meeting: Fall Open House at Wishram School

- Takes place in the evening so that working parents can attend.
- Provide childcare and dinner.
- Title 1/LAP staff explains the program and conducts a community survey.
- The event is usually very well attended.

C. & D. Flexible Meetings Involving Parents:

We hold meetings at times that are arranged among the participants. Childcare is provided as needed. We telephone parents with personal invitations and reminders.

E. Wishram School Will Provide Parents:

- Timely information about Title/LAP programs. Information is provided in the newsletter, at meetings, and at Open House. By parental suggestion, we now include posters at the local posting locations.
- Parents and guardians are shown our curricula and student work while visiting the classrooms during Open House.
- Assessments, including Smarter Balance scores, are shared at parent/teacher/student conferences. Non-attending parents receive the information by mail, with explanatory letters. Progress reports are sent home every three weeks. ICU informs parents/guardians of missing assignments.
- All teachers and Title/LAP staff are available for meeting at any time during the year by appointment upon parent's request.
- Literacy events (Family Nights, Book Fair, and Dr. Seuss Day) promote parent involvement.
- PRIDE events welcome parents and students into school with a variety of events
- Wishram School assists in the Cultural Exchange day which is a community wide celebration of Native American traditions. The school also supports the Gifts of the Ancestors projects.

F. Recourse For Dissatisfaction with the Schoolwide Program Plan: All parents/guardians are encouraged to be involved in the SIP process and the Indistar Plan with a Data Carousel Day. Subsequent smaller monthly SIP committee meetings include parent volunteers. The plan will be available at Open House and upon request in the office. Parents not satisfied with the plan may submit their comments.

G. There is an organization to help parents participate in Title1 and be more informed. It is called the **Parental Information and Resources Center (PIRC)**. Information on it can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.pirc-info.net/> or hard copy can be obtained by request through the school.

H. We will revive our parent organization, PRIDE and recruit new members at Open House.

I. Part II Shared Responsibilities

- Parents and staff review and revise the parent/teacher/student compact annually. This compact will continue to be available as a flyer in our display for information purposes. At Fall Conferences, the parents/guardians, teachers, and students will review, discuss, and sign it. For Spring Conferences, we use the Navigation 101 model for student-led conferences for grades 7-12 with more success and skill evidenced by students each year.
- Parents/guardians receive progress reports every three weeks. Parent/guardians can access their students' Accelerated Reader Records on the web as well as the Skyward grading system, and they have access to computers at the school.
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer for the SIP Priority Plan committee, after-school programs, in the classrooms and library, and with PRIDE activities. Elementary teachers include parents in classroom activities.

Building Capacity--Requirement for Involvement

- A. **Assistance in Understanding State Standards:** We held a yearly meeting for three years to explain state content standards and MSP and HSPE tests, but no one came. We need to meet this goal in other ways. We now explain individual student's scores on the current state tests (now SBAC) and on district assessments at conferences, which are generally well-attended. Parents/guardians asked questions and received information about the testing and our preparation of students at our parent involvement meeting.
- B. **Materials and Training to Assist Parents:** We have provided math books (Math on Call, etc.) and training for elementary parents to help them help their children with homework. Parents ask that we continue this and provide training on the new grade 1 & 2 curriculum. We have the Bag-It Books series to send home with elementary students for reading together with parents. We provide services for parents in obtaining their G.E.D.s. Our new web version of Accelerated Reader can be accessed from any computer. We have a Math night and Family Literacy Events. We also provide Love and Logic training.
- (Update - At midyear we started the ICU program. With it we notify parents or guardians of any missing assignments via text or email and we have the assignments scanned and accessible for parents.)

C. Educate Staff on the Value of Parent Contributions /Coordinate Parent Programs.

The district has sent staff to professional development in the area of parent involvement. It has also supported training for the Love and Logic program. We review, as a staff, the results of the community poll.

D. Coordinate Parent Involvement Programs and Conduct Parent Resource Centers.

The district provides the pre-school program. We provide an open library night with many learning games (Leap Frog, Leap Pad) available. We plan to add more read-together books and activities. We survey parents as to what events they would be interested in attending and which events they might be willing to help with.

E. Information Sent in a Way Parents Can Understand.

We produce a monthly newsletter in parent-friendly language. It includes health information, fun reading ideas, news about what is going on in the classrooms, preparing children to do their best on testing, etc. We have one deaf parent and we have two staff members who translate for us at meetings. We use text messaging and computers as well.

F. Other reasonable support

As a result of a parent suggestion at a recent meeting, we will also use signage to increase communication. We are having the students prepare invitations to their student-led conferences.

Part III Accessibility Requirements

We make a conscious effort to write (and, if necessary, rewrite) our newsletters in a simplified and direct style with limited vocabulary. We have one deaf parent and we have two staff members who translate for us at meetings. We use text messaging and computers as well.

- Wishram School has recently upgraded our facilities to include a wheelchair lift for disabled students, and we provide other transportation.

Part IV Adoption

Wishram School Family Involvement Policy/Procedures have been developed and revised jointly, with parents of children participating in the Title 1 program, as evidenced by meeting minutes. The Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures were developed by Wishram School on June 114, 2011, and

will be in effect throughout the 2015-2016 school year. The school will obtain board approval and distribute these Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures to all parents/guardians of participating Title 1/LAP children and make it available to the community in September 2016.

Signature of Title Authorized Representative Joan Chantler

Date 6/09/15

These family members or guardians were involved with the development of this document:

Gloria Flock Skye Cooper Ursula Montoya

Jason Cooper Cassie Lund

Parent and Staff: Heather Gimlin

Staff Member: Joan Chantler