612.1 DEVELOPMENT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICIES FOR TITLE I PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage and facilitate involvement by parents and families of students participating in Title I in the educational programs and experiences of students. The policy shall provide the framework for organized, systematic, ongoing, informed and timely parent and family involvement in relation to decisions about the Title I services within the school district. The involvement of parents and families by the school district shall include parents and families of students participating in Title I services, including eligible private school students receiving equitable services under applicable federal law.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318 (Parental Involvement)

Cross References:

Adopted in 2009 with Revisions from MSBA Policy 612.1 *Orig. 1996*, Rev. 2005, Transferred from Policy KBF

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II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. It is the policy of the school district to plan and implement, with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children, programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of those parents in its Title I programs.

B. It is the policy of the school district to fully comply with 20 U.S.C. section 6318, which requires the school district to develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to parents of children participating in Title I programs written parental involvement policies.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT LEVEL POLICY

The school board will direct the administration to develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that will be incorporated into the school district's Title I plan. The policy will establish the expectations for parental involvement and describe how the school district will:

A. involve parents and family members in the joint development of the school district's Title I plan and the development of support and improvement plans under 20 United States Code, section 6311(d);

B. provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the school district in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;

C. coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with similar strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs;

D. conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying

1. barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities authorized by 20 United States Code, section 6318 (with particular attention to, parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or who are of a racial or ethnic minority background);

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2. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and

3. strategies to support successful school and family interactions;

E. use the findings of such evaluations in Paragraph D. above to design evidence-based strategies, as defined in 20 United States Code, section 7801(21), for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the district-level and school-level parent and family engagement policies described in 20 United States Code, section 6318; and

F. involve parents in the activities of the schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the school district to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the school district for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL LEVEL POLICY

The school board will direct the administration of each school jointly develop (or amend an existing parental involvement policy) jointly with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy, agreed upon by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the federal requirements of parental involvement.

A. The policy will describe the means by which each school with a Title I program will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain to parents of participating children the program, its requirements, and their right to be involved;

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; such as open houses, conferences, book fairs, family literacy/Math nights, kindergarten round-up or additional activities as planned.

3. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the parental involvement programs, including the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan, unless the school already has a program for

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involving parents in the planning and design of its programs that would adequately involve parents of participating children;

4. Provide parents of participating children with: timely information about Title I programs; if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child's education; and to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and

5. If the school-wide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent's comments on the plan when it is submitted to the school district.

B. As a component of this policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents a school/parent compact which outlines how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to meet state student academic achievement standards;

2. Describe the ways each parent will be responsible for supporting his or her child's learning by monitoring school attendance and homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in his or her child's classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to his or her child's education and use of extracurricular time.

3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through the use of:

a. Annual parent-teacher conferences to discuss the compact and the child's achievement;

b. Frequent progress reports to the parents; and

c. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, participate in the child's class, and observe in the child's classroom.

C. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic

achievement, the policy will describe how each school and the school district will:

1. Provide assistance to participating parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;

2. Provide materials and training to assist parents in working with their children to improve their children's achievement, including coordinating necessary literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

3. Educate school 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 school;

4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Family Education, Invest Early, Step Ahead Parent Resource Center, Baby Steps, Community Education, and Early Childhood Screening;

5. Ensure, to the extent practicable, that information about school and parent meetings, programs, and activities is sent home in a format and in a language the parents can understand; and

6. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

D. The policy will also describe the process to be taken if the school district and school choose to:

1. Involve parents in the development of training for school staff to improve the effectiveness of such training;

2. Provide necessary literacy training with funds received under Title I programs if all other funding has been exhausted;

3. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in meetings and training sessions;

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4. Train and support parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

5. Arrange meetings at a variety of times or have in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, and parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental opportunities for involvement and participation in school-related activities;

6. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;

7. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and business in parental involvement activities; and

8. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs.

E. To carry out the requirements of parental involvement, the school district and schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and form that is understandable by the parents.

F. The school district and each school shall assist parents and parent organizations by informing such parents and parent organizations of the existence and purpose of such centers.

The policies will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.