2415.04 TITLE I – DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

General Expectations

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. For the purpose of this policy, parent refers to the primary person(s) responsible for the student's wellbeing.

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.

The school district will incorporate this District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy into its school district's 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 district and its 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, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the school district's 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 New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event the school district is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the district's Title I, Part A allocation, the school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects Title I schools in the district 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:
>
> 1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
>
> 2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
>
> 3. 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; and
>
> 4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.

Description of How the School District will Implement Required District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below (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:

    a. Provide technical assistance as the school develops and implements its improvement, and that the technical assistance is based on scientifically-based research (SBR).

b. Request parental participation in the development of a written parental policy and parental involvement requirements.

c. Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the joint development of above mentioned policy.

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:

a. Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy; and

b. Involve parents in the joint development of any school wide program plan.

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:

a. Provide specific technical assistance that includes help with analyzing data from the assessments, and other examples of student work.

b. Provide technical assistance to address problems in instruction.

c. Provide support in implementing parental involvement requirements as well as the professional development requirements.

4. The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

a. Early Childhood Programs

b. Title III Language programs

c. Academic Support Instruction programs

d. Response to Intervention programs

e. Extended-Day and Extended-Year programs

5. The school 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.

   (List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play):

   a. Work with schools to ensure that all required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA.

   b. Conduct, with parents, and district staff an annual evaluation to identify activities and actions that are successful and support effective parental involvement.

   c. Identify with parents involvement activities that strengthen student academic achievement.

   d. Conduct a review of school and district parental programs and activities.



The school district will build the school's 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:

1. 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 below:

   a. New Jersey's academic content standards;

   b. New Jersey's student academic achievement standards;

   c. The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;

   d. The requirements of Part A;

   e. How to monitor their child's progress; and

   f. How to work with educators.

   (List 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.)

      i. Conduct parent workshops that educate parents and promote student academic, social, emotional and behavioral success (i.e. navigating school systems, understanding your child's test scores, access to supplemental programs).

      ii. Conduct Parent Outreach Nights and Back to School Nights.

      iii. Conduct individual parental conferences.

2. 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:

a. Conducting parent workshops that educate parents and promote student academic, social, emotional and behavioral success (i.e. navigating school systems, cyber-bullying and internet safety, Response to Intervention, mobile learning, college application process, and supplemental programs).

b. Providing materials to assist parents in promoting academics.

3. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, student 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:

a. Conducting annual Parents' Nights.

b. Conducting annual Back to School Nights.

c. Providing parental workshops on various topics.

4. 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 fully participating in the education of their children, by:

a. Conducting parental/community workshops on current educational issues and trends.

b. Conducting literacy trainings for parents.

c. Creating Parent Resource Centers/libraries at each school.



5. 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:

   a. Dissemination of printed media in English and other languages.

   b. Dissemination of district/school notification letters. (e.g. School in Need of Improvement Status, SES services, Title III status, etc.).

   c. Dissemination via electronic resources (e.g. QuickNews, Facebook, Twitter, District Website).

Discretionary District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy Activities

The additional information outlined below lists and describes discretionary activities the school district, in consultation with its parents, may undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

1. 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;

2. Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

3. In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, conducting meetings at alternate locations that may be off school grounds, or conducting virtual meetings with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;

4. Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;

5. Establishing a parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;

6. Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

7. Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

Adoption

This District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This Policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand, at the beginning of each school year or when the child is determined eligible and begins participating in Title I, Part A programs.

United States Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance – Appendix D-District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy

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