

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Program
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TITLE I – DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (M)

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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/guardians of participating children. 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.

For the purposes of this policy, parent(s)/guardian(s) means all familial/guardian relationships.

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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/guardians with limited English proficiency, parents/guardians with disabilities, and parents/guardians 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/guardians 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/guardians of participating children, the school district will submit any parent/guardian 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/guardians 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:

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Parental involvement means the participation of parents/guardians in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

1. That parents/guardians play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. That parents/guardians are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
3. That parents/guardians 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/guardians 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/guardians in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:

- a. Parent Advisory Council
- b. Parent Meetings
- c. Title I Parent Workshop

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2. The district will take the following actions to involve parents/guardians in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- a. Parent Advisory Council
- b. Parent Meetings
- c. Title I Parent Workshop

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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. Title I Workshops

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b. Review of State Assessment

c. Annual meeting for parents/guardians scores of participating students

4. The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: (Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, parents/guardians As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs), by:

a. Notification of Title I Programs @ Preschools

b. _____

c. _____

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/guardians in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents/guardians 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/guardians will play):

a. Evaluation will be conduct by the Curriculum & Instruction Office

b. Parents will review this data

c. _____

The school district will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents/guardians 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/guardians of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:

• New Jersey's academic content standards;

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- New Jersey's student academic achievement standards;
- The New Jersey 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.

(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.)

- a. Provide Parent Workshops that focus on supporting their child
- b. Parent/teacher conferences
- c.

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2. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents/guardians 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. Title I Parent Workshops
- b.
- c.

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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/guardians as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent/guardian programs and build ties between parents/guardians and schools, by:

- a. Professional Development
- b. Professional Learning Communities
- c.

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4. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading

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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/guardian resource centers, that encourage and support parents/guardians in fully participating in the education of their children, by:

a. Parent Workshops

b. Provide Supplemental materials for parents

c.

5. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent/guardian programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents/guardians of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand:

a. Related letters mailed/mailed home

b. Related letters translated

c.

~~[Optional — to be included if the district provides any discretionary activities — select the applicable activities below]~~

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:

~~Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, Principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;~~

~~XX Providing necessary literacy training for parents/guardians 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;~~

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~~In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;~~

~~Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;~~

~~XX Establishing a district-wide parent/guardian advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;~~

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

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

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~~This District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents/guardians of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This Policy will be distributed to all parents/guardians of participating Title I, Part A children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians 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~~

~~Each school served with Title I funds shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating pupils, this parental involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, §1119(a) through (f). Parents will be notified of this policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. This policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and schools within the district.~~

~~"Parent", for the purposes of this policy, means a parent and/or legal guardian. "School", for the purposes of this policy, is a specific school in a Target Assistance Title I program or schools within the district in a school-wide Title I program.~~

Policy Involvement

Each school served with Title I funds will:

- ~~1. Convene an annual meeting, as soon as practicable at the beginning of each academic year, to which all parents of participating pupils shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation and the requirements of this Policy, and the right of the parents to be involved.~~
- ~~2. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement.
 - ~~• If requested, parents will be provided opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.~~~~
- ~~3. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. Topics of such meetings shall include:
 - ~~• timely information about programs required by NCLB, §1118; and~~
 - ~~• a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.~~~~

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

Each school served by Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of all pupils served with Title I funds, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school 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 will:

- ~~1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the pupils served by Title I funds to meet the State's student academic achievement standards~~
- ~~2. Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and~~
- ~~3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - ~~a. parent teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual pupil's achievement;~~
 - ~~b. frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and~~
 - ~~c. reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.~~~~

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and school district assisted with Title I funds:

1. Shall provide assistance to parents of pupils served by the school in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this Policy, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
3. Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, Building Principals, 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 programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
4. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children;
5. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
6. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this Policy as parents may request.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of NCLB, §1118 and this Policy, the school and school district, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, to include providing information and school reports required under NCLB, §1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

The district will inform parents of any parental information and resource centers that provide training, information, and support to parents and individuals who work with local parents, school districts, and schools receiving Title I funds.

The Superintendent of Schools will submit this Policy to the New Jersey Department of Education for review to be sure the Policy meets the requirements of NCLB, §1118.

References: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, §1118

Initial Adoption: April 23, 2007

First Reading: ~~April 9, 2007~~
Second Reading: ~~April 23, 2007~~
Latest Adoption: ~~Adoption:~~ ~~April 23, 2007~~