

POLICY

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2415.04 TITLE I - DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

1.0 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.

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



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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.

2.0 Definition of Parental Involvement

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 and schools in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving pupil academic learning, parent education and other school activities, including ensuring-

2.1 That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

2.2 That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

2.3 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



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2.4 That translation services and translated materials will be made available to Non-English speaking parents when appropriate to ensure clear understanding of presented items

2.5 The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

2.6 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.

3.0 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):

3.1 The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development and evaluation of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA and the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

3.1.1.1 The district will involve a sub-committee of parents in from its Parent Organization Leadership group, which consist of parent organization officers from each of its district schools, and community stakeholders in the planning or evaluation of its district parent involvement plan.

3.1.1.2 The district sub-committee will define a timeline for planning meetings.



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3.1.1.3 District sub-committee will present its draft of the Parent Involvement plan to full Parent Organization Leadership group member.

3.1.1.4 Parent sub-committee charged with developing the Parent Involvement Plan will present draft of plan to the superintendent of Schools for final approval.

3.2 All members of Parent Leadership Group must adhere to required training in, included but not limited to;

- 3.2.1 Financial leadership
- 3.2.2 PTO Leadership
- 3.2.3 Effective communication
- 3.2.4 Conflict resolution

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 pupil academic achievement and school performance:

a. The district will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A Schools in planning and implementing effective parental activities via the district department of Family & Community Engagement. The department will hold training and provide district and school-level resources to ensure successful implementation.

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 As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs), by:



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- a. Paterson Parent University Program
 - b. Paterson Adopt-a-School Program - Faith-based Partnership program
 - c. Superintendent Round Table Programs
 - d. Parent Organization Leadership Program
 - e. Parent Coordinators & Parent Community Liaisons.
 - f. Creation of a 1 year Parent Involvement Plan created in conjunction with Parents, Teachers, Administrators, Faith-based Leaders, Business owners, Community Stakeholders - ie; Action Team Development model
 - g. TV, Web and Social Media strategies
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):



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a. The department of Family & Community Engagement will conduct a series of parent surveys aimed at measuring parent service satisfaction, and barriers to participation in parent trainings and general parental academic support of their children. Surveys should be implemented between September - October and May - June of each school year.

b. The department of Family & Community Engagement will conduct a series of focus group sessions with parents in an attempt to measure parent service satisfaction, and barriers to participation in parent trainings and general parental academic support of their children. Focus Group sessions should be implemented between May - June of each school year.

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 pupil 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 included but, not limited to the following, by undertaking the actions described below:

- New Jersey's academic content standards;
- New Jersey's pupil academic achievement standards;
- The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Part A;



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- 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. Paterson Parent University which includes topics but, not limited to:
 - i. English as a Second Language
 - ii. GED Classes
 - iii. Parenting for Mothers Workshops
 - iv. Adult Literacy Classes
 - v. Understanding Grade-Level Expectations
 - vi. Understanding IEP and 504 Plans
 - vii. How to support the Struggling Readers
 - viii. Exposure to multicultural practices and languages
- b. Exposure trips for parents to destinations included but, not limited to:
 1. NJ State Capital and a tour of the Legislative process
 2. United States Capital and a tour of the Federal Legislative Process
 3. Local Library tours for ESL Students
- c. Equipment - Language Translation units to aid in facilitating the translation of messages and workshops in various languages.



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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. School-based parent coordinators schools will provide monthly training opportunities for parents on subject in the following areas;
 - i. Health & Nutrition
 - ii. Personal Development
 - iii. Curriculum and Instruction
 - iv. Technology
 - v. Advocacy
 - vi. And more..
3. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil 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. Local Schools will implement with the assistance of school level parent coordinator Parent Organizations to facilitate communication, and join parent-teacher projects around student achievement and strengthening parent support.
 - b. Parent liaisons and Parent coordinators will assist the principal of the school in provide adequate communication between parents and the schools.



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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 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. The district department of family & community engagement will designate a member of its department to participate in the department of early childhood advisory groups to ensure district strategies around parental involvement are represented in group planning.
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. Each school will implement Parent Information Centers to allow for the posting of pertinent parent and community.
 - b. Each school will, when possibly, post parent and community events of district and school Web site.
 - c. Each school will utilize the "Connect Ed Phone System "to alert parents of important parent events and of important information.



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- d. Parent Coordinators will have access to Automated phone systems to notify parents of various information

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. Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, Principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. Establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;



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

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

Adopted: 19 December 2007
Revised: 16 March 2011
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Revised: 28 August 2013
Re-Adopted: 16 September 2015

