POLICY

Board of Education

Section: Program

2415.04. TITLE I - DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (M)
Date Created: June, 2008
Date Edited: October, 2011

2415.04. TITLE I - DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (M)

MANDATED

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(c) 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 pupil 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. Communication will be facilitated by parent meetings, written correspondence, and on-line advertisements.
   b. When appropriate, parent surveys will be created and distributed to parents.
   c. Parents will be invited to participate in school events and meetings.

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. Parents are invited annually to participate in the needs assessment process for the district.

b. When appropriate, surveys will be created and distributed to parents.

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. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be conducted annually.

b. Involve parents in educational planning programs and meetings that target student achievement, skills, and performance.

c. Parents are required to sign a Parent/Teacher/Student Compact at the beginning of the year.

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:

a. Early childhood students' parents will use Storytown (Language Arts materials) with their child to build reading skills at home.

b. Web-based programs will be used by parents at home to reinforce students' learning.

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. The designee in charge of Title I programs will conduct the annual
evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Program.

b. A meeting will be held annually with parents to review the content and effectiveness of Title I activities and programs.

c. For those parents who cannot attend the annual meeting, a survey will be created and distributed to parents in order to gain their perspectives.

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 such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:

   a. New Jersey’s academic content standards;
   b. New Jersey’s pupil 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.)

a. The Title I designee will plan and host a parent workshop that reviews Language Arts and/or math program information with parents.

b. District Math and Writing Portfolios will be distributed to parents for their review twice a year.

c. Using the district website, parents can utilize on-line resources such as web-based programs, the district curriculum, and homework resources.

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. Based upon need, the district will provide after-school and evening activities where parents and students have opportunities to learn Language Arts and/or math skills content together.

b. Learning packets or supplemental Language Arts and/or math materials can be provided for parents by making a request in advance to the students' teacher.

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. Encourage parent participation in PTO/PTA organizations.

b. Publish and broadcast information linking parent involvement and student achievement.

c. Utilize the established school based committees to generate ideas concerning how to involve parents in school programs.

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. Parents will be encouraged to use on-line or web-based school programs at home.

b. Encourage the use of after-school or evening workshops to help parents facilitate their child's learning at home.

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. The district will utilize clear and concise communication tools such as:

a. Written Correspondence
b. On-line Correspondence

c. In-person communications/meetings

d. Web-based Parent Portal

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

Originally Adopted: April 12, 2011
First Reading: September 12, 2011
Adopted: September 26, 2011