

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education endorses the parent involvement goals of Title I of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Therefore, it encourages the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education, including the development and implementation of district activities and procedures designed to carry out NCLB parent involvement goals.

Beyond the role of Title I, the Board recognizes:

- the critical role of families in their children's academic achievement and social well being;
- the responsibility of every school to create a welcoming environment, conducive to learning and supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that have been developed jointly with families;
- the need to accommodate the diverse needs of families by developing jointly, with families, multiple, innovative, and flexible ways for families to be involved;
- the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians, particularly in their right to have access to the school, their child's records, and their child's classroom;
- the value of working with community agencies that provide services to children and families;
- the need for families to remain involved from preschool through high school;
- the diversity of family structures, circumstances and responsibilities, including differences that might impede family participation. Policies and programs should include participation by all persons interested in the child's educational progress, not just the biological parents; and
- a need for links with social service and health agencies, faith-based institutions and community groups to support key family and community issues.

In accordance with NCLB requirements, the district will:

1. involve parents in the joint development of its Title I plan. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of children participating in Title I programs, the district will submit any parent comments to the State Education Department along with its plan;
2. involve parents in the process of school review and improvement. This includes:

- a. explaining to parents how they can become involved in addressing the need for improvement; consulting with parents in the development of a school improvement plan, and including in such plan strategies to promote effective parental involvement;
 - b. providing parents with adequate opportunity to participate in the development of a restructuring plan whenever their child's school is identified for restructuring, and to comment before the district implements an alternative governance arrangement;
3. provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in their own planning and implementation of effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
4. build capacity of its schools and parents for parental involvement;
5. coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies under Title I with parent involvement strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Early Reading First, District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DWEIC), District-wide Parent Forum Committee, and state-run preschool programs;
6. conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barrier to greater participation by parents in activities under the policy, and revision of parent involvement policies necessary for more effective parental involvement;
7. involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I;
8. assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with other educators to improve the achievement of their children;
9. provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; and
10. educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of parent contributions, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.

Additionally, the Board directs each district school with a program served with Title I funds to jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy. The policy must be agreed on by such parents and describe the means for carrying out NCLB parental involvement requirements set forth below.

Each Title I school must notify parents of its parent involvement policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. In addition, Title I schools must make their parent involvement policy available to the community and update it periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

The district and its schools may also consider other activities that further build the capacity of parents to become involved, to the extent those activities are feasible and appropriate. In accordance with the NCLB, these additional optional activities may include, for example, the establishment of a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs, and training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

Adoption date: March 23, 2006