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New Policy

Title I Parental Involvement

A school district that receives Title 1 funds must implement programs activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in programs assisted by Title I , Part A programs consistent with §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 §1118, the school will ensure that the required parental involvement policies meet the requirements of §1118 (b) of ESEA, and include, as a component, a parent/school compact consistent with §1118 (d) of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district 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 §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.

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 spend and will ensure that not less that ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the school.

Policy 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 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 §1118 of the ESEA;

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

Implementation of Policy Components

Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components

TITLE 1 Parental Involvement (continued)

outlined in §1118 of the ESEA:

1. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its parental involvement plan:
 - a. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, 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 the policy and the right of the parents involved;
 - b. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as during the day or evening;
 - c. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide plan under §1118 of the ESEA.
2. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under §1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. Provide timely information about programs required by §1118 of the ESEA,
 - b. Provide 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; and
 - c. If requested by parents, provide 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, and
 - d. Submit any parent comments on the plans when the school makes the plan available to the Board of Education, if the school-wide program plan under §1118 of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating pupils.
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, 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.
4. The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - a. Project First Step
 - b. Head Start
 - c. Project Self-Sufficiency

TITLE 1 Parental Involvement (continued)

5. The 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. 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, its parental involvement policies:
 - a. 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 practical, in a language the parents can understand;
 - b. May establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs;
 - c. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this policy as parents may request.

Building Capacity for Involvement

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, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as 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;
 - How to monitor their child's progress; and
 - How to work with educators
2. The school district will 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. Offering parent workshops;
 - b. Providing materials for use at home to improve academic achievement;
 - c. Providing information on internet links to improve academic achievement.
3. The school district will, with assistance from its 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:

TITLE 1 Parental Involvement (continued)

- a. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
 - b. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement;
 - c. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
4. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Project First Step, Head Start, Project Self-Sufficiency, public preschools and other programs, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- a. Informing parents of any parental information and resource centers that provide training, information and support to parents and individuals who work with local parents and school districts.
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 by:
- a. Asking parents how they wish to receive the information;
 - b. Asking parents if they would like the information in English or an alternate language;

Date Approved: