

RSU 56 TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
Corrections from MAINE DOE

This district-level policy has been developed jointly with, agreed on with, and distributed to the parents/guardians of students participating in RSU 56's Title I programs. As a written parent involvement policy, it establishes the district's expectations for parent involvement and provides an understanding of the shared responsibility of the school system and parents/guardians in improving students' academic achievement and school performance. The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for distributing this policy to parents/guardians of students participating in RSU 56's Title I programs.

Because parent involvement is so important to a student's success in school, the Board encourages regular participation by parents/guardians in all aspects of RSU 56's Title I programs.

RSU 56 provides opportunities for parent/guardian involvement that are aligned with the requirements of Title I programs set forth in law as follows.

- A. RSU 56 involves parents/guardians in the joint development of, agreement on, as well as distribution to parents of participating students the school system's plan to help disadvantaged students meet challenging achievement and academic standards and in the process of school review and improvement by:
 - 1. Surveying parents using both on-line and paper copy to seek their input;
 - 2. Establishing effective and ongoing two-way communications between RSU 56, staff, and parents/guardians;
 - 3. Using Facebook and print media to seek their input.

- B. RSU 56 provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:
 - 1. Providing information to parents/guardians about the system and various instruments that will be developed or used to monitor student progress and
 - 2. Providing district-level workshops to assist individual schools in planning and implementing improvement activities.

- C. RSU 56 builds the capacity of schools and parents/guardians for strong parental involvement by:

1. Engaging school Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) to seek out and involve parents/guardians through their communications and informational meetings;
 2. Promoting cooperation between RSU 56 and other agencies or school/community groups to furnish learning opportunities, increase awareness of support services, and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
 3. Holding parent meetings, providing handouts and providing information on websites, which helps parents with understanding such topics as Maine academic standards, state and local assessments, how to monitor student progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child;
 4. Providing resources on-line and packets to be given out to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology;
 5. Providing print and electronic materials as well as workshops to educate teachers, principals, and other staff in the value of contributions of parents, how to reach out to parents as equal partners, how to implement parent programs and build ties between parents and the school;
 6. Coordinating a calendar of parent events with other organizations;
 7. Engaging parents to suggest revisions to information that makes it more understandable to parents; and
 8. Surveying parents to Open House and Student Conferences to gather their requests for parental involvement activities.
- D. RSU 56 coordinates and integrates parent/guardian involvement strategies for Title 1 programs with those of other programs (such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs) by:
1. Involving school system and building representatives from other programs to assist in identifying specific population needs;
 2. Sharing data between programs to assist in developing new initiatives to improve student academic achievement and school improvement; and
 3. Collaborating with other agencies to provide training to parents (e.g. Literacy for ME).

- E. RSU 56 conducts, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title 1, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background), using the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent/guardian involvement, and revising, if necessary, the parent/guardian involvement policies described in this section by:
1. Evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent/guardian involvement policy through a variety of means such as surveys, workshops, focus groups, and informal meetings involving district and school administrators, teachers, and parents/guardians;
 2. Identifying and overcoming barriers to effective evaluation and input, e.g., language support for parents/guardians who do not speak English or have limited English proficiency, scheduling multiple meetings at various times of day or night, meeting in places accessible by public transportation, or providing a means of transportation; and
 3. Identifying potential policy changes and program improvements.
- F. RSU 56 involves parents/guardians in the activities of the schools served under Title 1 by:
1. Keeping parents/guardians informed of the objectives of RSU 56's Title 1 programs;
 2. Providing communication and calendar information to alert parents/guardians of meetings or events and encouraging their participation;
 3. Providing parent resources and information on district web page, linked to school web pages; and
 4. Promoting opportunities for parents as volunteers in the classroom and in school programs.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 6318

Adopted: July 11, 2017