

Section: **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Policy Title: **Title 1 Parent Involvement**

The board recognizes that parent and family engagement helps students participating in Title I programs achieve academic standards. To promote parent and family engagement, the board adopts the following policy, which describes how the district will involve parents and family members of Title I students in developing and implementing the district's Title I programs.

### **District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement**

The district will do the following to promote parent and family engagement:

- A. The district will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the district's Title I plan. Invitations will go out in the beginning of the school year parent newsletters sent out from each Title I school asking for their participation in a district level Title I committee. To recruit for the district level Title I committee, a district level personnel will attend each Title I school's parent meeting to recruit for the district level committee.

The district will then conduct two annual Title I Dinner & Celebration events as outlined below. The goal is for 2-4 parents to attend from each school, along with either their admin and/or Title I coordinator/teacher.

#### **Fall**

1. Each school will share their plans for engaging parents & families and minimally;
2. Conduct the annual review of the district's Parent Involvement Policy to make recommendations.
3. Create a list of possible district Title I funded events to provide more opportunity for parent/family engagement opportunities throughout the school year.

#### **Spring**

1. Each school will share successes and challenges to date.
  2. Gather thinking and encourage the schools to kick start their annual building plan and parent involvement evaluation.
  3. Share ideas of how families and schools can work together over the summer to encourage reading at home.
- B. The district will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the district in the planning and implementing of effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

C. The district will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all Title I schools. At that meeting, the following will be identified:

1. Barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I activities;
2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
3. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The district will use the findings from the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise this policy if necessary.

The district will facilitate removing barriers to parental involvement by doing the following: To encourage more parent involvement, district level Title I parent meetings will be held in conjunction with school Title I meetings. District level personal will attend each Title I school parent involvement meeting to share district plans and to recruit parents who want to participate at the district level. For our fall and spring Title I parent meetings, we will host them at an elementary school where dinner and childcare will be provide.

D. The district will involve parents of Title I students in decisions about how the Title I funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent. The district must use Title I funds reserved for parent and family engagement for at least one of the reasons specified in 20 U.S.C. § 6318(a)(3)(D).

E. The district and each of the schools within the district providing Title I services will do the following to support a partnership among schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement:

1. Provide assistance to parents of Title I students, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics:
  - a. Washington’s challenging academic standards;
  - b. State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments;
  - c. The requirements of Title I;
  - d. How to monitor their child’s progress; and
  - e. How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
2. 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. Through the two annual district Title I parent meetings, the goal is to incorporate the curriculum and pedagogical expertise of our teachers and specialists as so to give parents ideas and resources for supporting academic success at home. The district level Title I committee will be driven by the suggestions of the educators and the needs of the parents/families. We could offer: parenting classes in

regards to teaching literacy and math at home, additional materials for students to take home and work on, family literacy & math nights and working on getting informational materials in multiple languages so parents can understand the resources available to their families.

3. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and how to do the following:
  - a. Reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
  - b. Implement and coordinate parent programs; and
  - c. Build ties between parents and the school.
4. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with similar strategies used under other programs, such as:
  - a. Head Start;
  - b. Even Start;
  - c. Learning Assistance Program;
  - d. Special Education; and
  - e. State-operated preschool programs.
5. Ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children. The information will be provided 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 publicize Title I information via the following mediums: Beginning of the school year newsletter, classroom newsletter, school websites, district website, school reader boards and by district personnel attending each Title I parent meeting at the beginning of the school year to share with parents how they can become more involved in the Title I program.

### **School-Based Parent and Family Engagement Policies**

Each school offering Title I services will have a separate parent and family engagement policy, which will be developed with parents and family members of Title I students. Parents and family members will receive notice of their school's parent and family engagement policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Each school-based policy will describe how each school will do the following:

1. Convene an annual meeting at a convenient time, to which all parents of Title I students will be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their schools' participation under Title I, to explain the requirements of Title I, and to explain the

- rights that parents have under Title I;
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening;
  3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, reviewing, and improving of Title I programs; and
  4. Provide parents of Title I students the following:
    - a. Timely information about Title I programs;
    - b. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards; and
    - c. If requested by parents, 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 suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Each school-based policy will include a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve state standards. The compact must do the following:

- A. Each school will use current and approved curriculum to deliver the academic services in the Title I program. Materials will be taught by certificated teachers and assisted by trained paraprofessionals who are trained in delivering the content. Title I class participating is based off of student need; with the students needing the most help being prioritized for assistance. Students are continuously monitored for their progress as they move towards being at grade level standard.
- B. To assist Title I schools, parents can help in the following ways: Read nightly with your child, make sure your child has a safe and quiet place to complete homework, helping your child with their homework, volunteering in their classroom, make regular contact with their teacher to find ways at home to promote academic success, encourage your child to get involved in school and/or civic activities to promote positive citizenship.
- C. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through the following:
  1. Annual parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, during which the compact will be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievements;
  2. Frequent reports to parent's on their children's progress;
  3. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
  4. Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that

family members can understand.

Legal References:           20 USC 6311 State plans (“Every Student Succeeds Act”)  
                                  20 USC 6312 Local educational agency plans  
                                  20 USC 6318 Parent and family engagement

Management Resources:   Policy News, October 2008 Family Involvement Policy  
                                  Policy News, June 2005 Title I Parental Involvement Policy  
                                  Policy News, August 2003 No Child Left Behind Update

Adopted:           March 14, 2004  
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