

# **SHERIDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **PARENT and Family Engagement POLICY**

The Sheridan School District understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. The district will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. To achieve such ends, the district shall work to:

1. Involve parents and the community as partners in joint collaboration, development, decision making, and review of the parent involvement policy, as well as Title I funding and programs associated with parental involvement, and other long range goals of the district. Parent recommendations will be solicited through parent comments, surveys, meetings, etc. The parent involvement policy, which describes the means for carrying out the policy requirements, will be distributed to parents.
  - Each Title I school will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend. Parents will be informed of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of the program, and the right of the parents to be involved.
  - Each Title I school will jointly develop with parents of Title I served children a school-parent compact.
2. Give support for schools in the district to develop policies and programs that will promote parental involvement while taking into consideration cultural diversity.
3. Provide parental involvement strategies for public and private preschool programs including the HIPPY and Pre-K programs.
4. Provide strategies for encouraging parents on how to be partners in their child's education. Such strategies might incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home (i.e. role play, ADE website tools, nutritional meal planning, etc.).
5. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities by scheduling regular parent involvement meetings at which parents will be given a report on the state of the school and an overview of what students will be learning, including information concerning Title I programs, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet and how parents can assist in making a difference in their child's education.
6. Provide to parents a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school via curriculum brochures emphasizing learning goals and objectives.
7. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs is sent to parents to the extent practical in a language parents can understand.
8. Provide training at least annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program.

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- 9. Provide two hours of professional development opportunities for teachers concerning parental involvement.
  
- 10. Provide three hours of professional development opportunities for administrators concerning parental involvement.

This policy shall be adopted and implemented by each campus within the district. To ensure the continued improvement of the district's parental/community involvement program, the district will conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of parental involvement policies. The evaluation will examine the policy's affect on promoting higher student achievement and participation and whether there are barriers to greater participation by parents which may include those who are economically disadvantaged or disabled, and parents who have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or any racial or ethnic minority background. The evaluation shall be accomplished during an annual meeting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and members of the administration.

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Beginning in school-year 2014-15 and every fourth year thereafter, teachers shall receive two (2) hours of PD designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

Beginning in school-year 2014-15 and every fourth year thereafter, administrators shall receive two (2) hours of PD designed to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies-and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.