

# Bryan County Schools Title I Parental Involvement Policy

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2016-2017 School Year

Revised April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> 2016

School Systems receiving Title I funds are required to have an annually revised/approved System Level Title I Plan, cooperatively developed between parents and schools. This is the currently revised plan for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents will be cordially invited to review and assist in revising this plan in the spring of 2017 for the following school year.

## **What is Parent Involvement?**

Parental Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- \* Parents play a basic role in helping their children learn
- \* Parents are encouraged to be active in their child's school and education
- \* Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in the decision-making and on committees to assist in the education of their child
- \* The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA
- \* To ensure all parents are informed, information is sent home to parents in the language primarily spoken in the home as chosen by the parent during enrollment, to the extent possible.

## **About the Parental Involvement Policy**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Bryan County School District has developed this parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe Bryan County School District's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive parent involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement plans. Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965(ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1118, the Bryan County School District will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

## **Jointly Developed**

During the annual State of the District meeting in April, all parents, faculty and staff are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parental involvement policy for the 2016-2017 school year. The district sends out invitations to all parents informing them about the meeting and posts announcements on each Title I Schools' website.

The district parental involvement policy will be posted on the district and Title I Schools' Web pages. A copy of the district and the school parental involvement policy will also be sent home

at the beginning of the year in the Title I folders. A copy of each will also be available in the Board of Education Office.

### **Strengthening Our School**

The Title I Director will meet at least twice a year with the school administrators to discuss parent involvement in the Bryan County School System and how to more effectively communicate and work with parents in the schools. The Parent Involvement Coordinator will meet with faculty of each Title I School to represent information on communicating and reaching out to parents in order to build ties between parents and the schools. In addition, written information will be disseminated to faculty, staff, and administration on the value and importance of the contributions of parents.

### **Reservation of Funds**

Bryan County Schools sets aside 1% of the total Title I allocation to be used at each Title I school for Parental Involvement activities. The Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) surveys parents and staff of each Title I school annually to assess how stakeholders believe these dedicated funds should be used to further support Parent Involvement at the school level. How funds should be allocated and used are also topics of the annual Parent Involvement spring meeting referenced above. Parents have multiple opportunities to voice suggestions and make requests. The PIC and Federal Programs Director meet with principals in the late summer and throughout the school year to provide guidance and support as each builds and manages the Title I budget for his/her school. As with all the Title I allocations, the Parent Involvement funds must align to the identified needs, objectives, and commitments that have been outlined in meeting agendas/notes as well as the School Parent Compacts, School improvement and School Wide Plans. Bryan County dedicates the required Parent Involvement set aside and most usually creates an additional Parent Involvement budget specifically for school-level parent involvement use.

### **Opportunities for Parent Consultation and Contribution**

Input and suggestions from parents are a very important component of the district and school parent involvement policies that are developed each year. All parents have the opportunity to be involved in the following

#### **\*State of the District Meeting ~**

This meeting is held in April each year. Parents are asked to help review and revise the district parent involvement policy, as well as the school parent involvement policy. Invitations are sent to all parents and notices posted to the school web sites.

#### **\*Annual Title I Survey~**

The survey will contain questions related to parental involvement budget, school environment, programs to help student success and a section for parents to provide comments.

**\*School and System Stakeholder Meetings**

Schools invite and encourage parents to participate in both the spring and fall Stakeholders' meetings held throughout the spring and fall seasons to analyze current trend, impression, climate, attendance, and achievement data. Using these data sets, the Stakeholders structure an analysis of these data and collectively triage targets/needs and strategize how to address those identified targets. The School Improvement (SIP) and School-Wide (SWP) Plans are then drafted from these procedures. SIP and SWPs are forwarded to the Federal Programs Director for review and feedback.

During late spring and early fall, a system level Stakeholders' Meeting meets to review Needs Assessment data and school stakeholder recommendations for entry into the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). All stakeholders are urged to attend and include parents, teachers, building level and central office administrators, community members, and higher education representatives. The annual system Stakeholder's Meeting is advertised in the local newspapers and both system and school level web pages.

**Building School and Parent Capacity**

The Bryan County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following district wide activities and programs.

The district and the Title I schools will provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their students' learning and progress as well as the Title I program. This will be done through school council and PTO meetings, being a member on the school improvement team, Title I meetings, and attending academic nights. Invitations will be sent out about these meetings to all parents and posted on the schools' web pages.

Each Title I school will have a Parent Resource Center. The resource center contains books, hands-on materials, DVDs/videos with information about how to work with students to improve academic achievement as well as literacy issues. Technology is available through the use of computers available in the resource room for parents to use.

Workshops are held throughout the year at each school to encourage support for helping students educationally as well as dealing with issues such as discipline and appropriate development.

Parents are encouraged to sign up for Parent Portal for PowerSchool to access grades and Notify Me for reminders.

Written information is given to parents by teachers on an individual basis.

Workshops are held at various times throughout the day, but efforts are made to present informational meetings in the evenings, and online. These were the most requested methods reported.

Pre-K and Head Start parents are invited to a workshop given by kindergarten teachers about what to expect in kindergarten. Information on this meeting will be given to community day care centers and put in local newspaper in order to invite upcoming kindergarten students and parents. Upcoming kindergarten students are invited to visit Lanier Primary in the spring for a tour of the building and the classrooms. There will also be a 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade transition night/meeting as well as a 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition night/meeting. Students and parents will also be able to tour their new school, meet teachers, and ask questions.

Community based organizations and businesses are given the opportunity to participate in school activities and functions. Community agencies provide support and information to parents and students through informational sessions and other support.

The Parent Involvement Coordinator is a member of the Bryan County Family Connections and has the opportunity to give information about needs of the Title I parents as well as learn about resources available to parents.

A District Parent Involvement Committee will be formed consisting of the Parent Involvement Coordinator, the Intervention Specialist from the Title I Schools, and several parents from each Title I School. They will meet [quarterly](#) to discuss parent involvement ideas and to help with any barriers that may exist between parents and schools.

The Parent Involvement Coordinator will provide professional development at each Title I School [quarterly](#). The professional development will consist of faculty meetings and/or Google Classroom.

### **Adoption**

This district wide parental involvement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was revised by the Bryan County School District on **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**, and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students on or before August 19, 2016.