

Whitten Elementary School

Committee Members:

Mary Hayden, Principal
Lillie Sexton, Asst. Principal
Anterica Baylark, Parent facilitator
Jennifer Curne, Parent
Ethel Bonner, Parent
Elsie Akins, lab Attendant
Corey Foreman, Community
Kyuntae Sanders, Parent
Erica Thomas, Teacher
Janet Thomas, Teacher
Linda Morgan, Math Instructional Facilitator
Bernice Hill, Literacy Instructional Facilitator
Lafayette Smith, District Parent Coordinator

Parental Involvement Policy

To support and strengthen student achievement, each school that receives Title I, Part A (Title I) funds must develop jointly with, and agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a School Parental Involvement Policy that contains information required by section 1118(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA). The policy establishes the school's expectation for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities. The school-parent compact is incorporated into the School Parental Involvement Policy.

Part I: General Expectations

Whitten Elementary School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school will jointly develop with parents and distribute to parents of participating children, a School Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on.
- The school will notify parents about the School Parental Involvement in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practical,

- will distribute this policy to parents in a language parents can understand.
- The school will make the School Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community.
 - The school will periodically update the School Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.
 - The school will adopt the school's School Parent Compact as a component of the school Parental Involvement Policy.
 - The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs and activities and procedures in accordance to this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student 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, when appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Part II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS.

1. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development and joint agreement of its School Parent Involvement Policy and its school wide plan, if applicable in an organized ongoing, and timely way under section 1118(b) of ESEA:
 - Whitten Elementary School holds monthly Parent Teacher Organization Meetings specifically to receive input from parents on how to increase parent participation.
2. Whitten Elementary School will take the following actions to distribute to the parents and the local community, the school Parental Involvement Policy.
 - The Parental Involvement Policy is disseminated through the mail.

- The Parental Involvement Policy is disseminated at enrollment of new students to reduce the number of parents/guardians not receiving it.
 - The Parental Involvement Policy is placed on the district website.
3. Whitten Elementary School will update periodically its school Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
 - January of every school year, given changes in school culture and the Program Improvement status, the Parental Involvement Policy will be reviewed and updated.
 4. Whitten Elementary School will convene an annual meeting to inform Parents of the following:
 - That their child's school participates in Title 1.
 - The requirements of Title 1.
 - Their rights to be involved.
 - Their school's participation in Title 1.
 - Use of letters home to reach parents to attend the annual Title 1 meeting.
 - Monthly newsletters with monthly calendar.
 5. Whitten Elementary School will hold a flexible number of meetings At various times, provide transportation, child care, and/or home visits paid for with Title 1 funding as long as these services are related to parental involvement:
 - Hold a Parent Teacher Organization Meeting monthly, and review meeting times and dates at the beginning of each semester.
 6. Whitten Elementary School will provide information about Title 1 programs to parents of participating children in a timely manner.
 - Title 1 participation letter is sent home at the beginning of the school year along with the services that the Title 1 program provides.
 - Annual Title 1 meeting is held at the beginning of the year to discuss the services available to the students and parents through Title 1.
 - Parent teacher Organization meetings are held to discuss updates to the program.
 7. Whitten Elementary School will provide parents of participating

- children 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:
- Parent conferences are held twice a year.
 - Parent education workshops are held to teach parents about the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment are used to measure student progress and proficiency levels that students are expected to meet: i.e. ActAspire /IOWA and District Quarterly Exams-TLI.
8. Whitten Elementary School will provide parents of participating children, 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 such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- Whitten Elementary will provide opportunities for parents to make suggestions and to participate in decision making to their child's education. i.e. parent surveys.
 - Whitten Elementary School will create standardized opportunities such as parent surveys for parents and educators to share partnered information, such as student strengths and learning preference.
9. Whitten Elementary School will submit to the district, any parent Comments if the school wide plan under section (11114) (b) (2) is not satisfactory to parents of participating children:
- Parent complaint letters will be sent to the local district coordinator of categorical programs.
 - Title 1 committee will review such comments and consider ways to resolve the disputed sections of the school plan.
10. Whitten Elementary School will disseminate information in the form of monthly newsletters on school activities, student services, and optional programs.
11. Whitten Elementary School will utilize letters and follow up calls Prior to all events in which parents are involved.

PART II: SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

1. Whitten Elementary School will build the school's and parent's

For strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- Parent Involvement Evening, where parents are welcome to come to the school and see examples of student's work as well as speak with faculty and staff about student progress.
 - Informal productions involving student work and performance, such as art and music.
2. The schools will incorporate the school-parent as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy:
- Parent Compact disseminated in the Back-To-School/First Day Packet issued each year in August.
 - Signed compacts are collected and filed annually.
3. The schools will, with the assistance of its district, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:
- The state's academic content standards.
 - The state's student academic achievement standards.
 - The state's and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
 - The requirements of Title 1.
 - How to monitor their child's progress.
 - How to work with educators:
 - a) Formal teacher conferences held twice per year. At these meetings parents are provided with information regarding standardized test.
 - b) Teachers provide information on student progress and mastery of the states content standards.
 - c) Conferences are held on an as need basis for student behavior and academic progress.
 - d) Parents are invited to attend district sponsored workshops to help students and parents support the instructional programs at home.
 - e) Informational flyers and pamphlets on parenting skills that help support the instructional program at home

are available through Great Rivers Educational Cooperative.

4. The school will, with the assistance of its district, 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:
 - Inviting parents to attend parent workshops to help parents support the instructional program at home. The workshops focus on communication techniques, parenting skills, and math training.
5. The school will, with the assistance of its district and 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:
 - Making sure that there is a balance of staff and parents at the parent teacher organization meetings and ensuring that each has a voice in the decision making process.
6. The schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities such as parent resource center that encourages and supports parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

ACCESSIBILITY

Whitten Elementary School will to the extent feasible and practical, provide opportunities for participation by parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, Title 1 parents of traveling and migratory students. This includes providing information and school reports in a format and, when possible, in a language such parents understand.

PART IV: DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the schools, in consultation with its parents, choose to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's

academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of ESEA:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principal, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title 1, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonable available sources of funding for that training.
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or others educators, who work directly with participating children with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopting and implementing model appropriate for improving parental involvement.
- Establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title 1, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART V: ADOPTION

This School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed by the Whitten Elementary School faculty and administration.