

2415.04 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (M)

Each school served with Title I funds shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating pupils, this parental involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, §1119(a) through (f). Parents will be notified of this policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. This policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and schools within the district.

"Parent", for the purposes of this policy, means a parent and/or legal guardian. "School", for the purposes of this policy, is a specific school in a Target Assistance Title I program or schools within the district in a school-wide Title I program.

Policy Involvement

Each school served with Title I funds will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, as soon as practicable at the beginning of each academic year, to which all parents of participating pupils shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation and the requirements of this Policy, and the right of the parents to be involved.
2. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement.
 - If requested, parents will be provided 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.
3. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. Topics of such meetings shall include:
 - timely information about programs required by NCLB, §1118; and
 - 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.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

Each school served by Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of all pupils served with Title I funds, 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 the State's high standards. The compact will:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the pupils served by Title I funds to meet the State's student academic achievement standards
2. Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and
3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - a. parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual pupil's achievement;
 - b. frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
 - c. reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and school district assisted with Title I funds:

1. Shall provide assistance to parents of pupils served by the school in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this Policy, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
3. Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, Building Principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
4. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children;

5. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
6. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this Policy as parents may request.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of NCLB, §1118 and this Policy, the school and school district, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, to include providing information and school reports required under NCLB, §1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

The district will inform parents of any parental information and resource centers that provide training, information, and support to parents and individuals who work with local parents, school districts, and schools receiving Title I funds.

The Superintendent of Schools will submit this Policy to the New Jersey Department of Education for review to be sure the Policy meets the requirements of NCLB, §1118.

References: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, §1118

First Reading: April 9, 2007
Second Reading: April 23, 2007
Adoption: April 23, 2007