

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education believes that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Parental involvement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parental involvement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework "contracts" between parents and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parental involvement.

Title I Parental Involvement - District Level Policy

Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement a school level parental involvement policy, as further required by the NCLB.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. At a minimum, parental involvement programs, activities and procedures at both the District and individual school level must ensure that parents:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- Are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

The term parents refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

District and school level Title I parental involvement programs, activities and procedures will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

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As further required by the NCLB, parents of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the District's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents also will participate in the process for developing a school improvement plan when the school their child attends fails to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and is identified as a school in need of improvement.

Parent participation in development of District wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate District staff will undertake actions to ensure parent involvement in the development of the District wide parental involvement plan.

Review of District wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent involvement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this review, the District will explain to parents when, where and how the review will be conducted, who will be responsible for coordinating the review, and their role in the review process.

Development of school level parental involvement plans

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all District schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parental involvement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance.

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the District and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

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1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will schedule activities such as workshops, conferences, distribution of training materials, and train parents to help other parents understand the role they can play in helping their child.

2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their child's academic achievement. To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will provide literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library, providing information about the essential components of reading or math instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teacher.

3. Educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on 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 schools.

To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will involve parents in developing this training, in order to improve its effectiveness.

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parental involvement strategies

The District will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with the NCLB Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with any of the following applicable programs: Head Start, Reading First, Even Start, and State-operated preschool programs.

Title I Parental Involvement - School Level Policy

The Title I Schools recognize that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education at school and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB):

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1. The Building Principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title I program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer an appropriate number of meetings to provide parents the opportunity to meet with school staff and otherwise participate in their child's education.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title I programs. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent involvement policy.

Student Academic Achievement School-Parent Compact**School-Parent Compact for Title I Students**

To help our Title I children achieve, we expect the following conditions during the school year:

School Responsibilities

The school will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
- Hold parent-teacher conferences. During these conferences, information will be discussed as it relates to the child's academic achievement;
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress;
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff; and
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.

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Parent Responsibilities

Parents will be asked to support their children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitor their child's attendance;
- Make sure that homework is completed;
- Limit amount of television their child watches;
- Volunteer in their child's school;
- Participate in decisions regarding their children's education;
- Promote positive use of their child's extracurricular time; and
- Stay informed about their child's education and communicate with the school regularly.

Student Responsibilities

Students will be asked to share the responsibility to improve their grades, and agree to:

- Do homework everyday and ask for help when needed;
- Read at least 20 minutes a day outside of school; and
- Give to their parents all notices and information received from their school every day.

Ref: §1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)(3); 100.4(f); 100.5(d)(4); 149.3(16)

Adopted: June 21, 2006