

Blending Title I Parent Involvement Requirements & Parent Engagement Promising Practices

“...partnerships among schools, families, and community groups are not a luxury—they are a necessity.”

Beyond the Bake Sale





Four Core Beliefs of Parent Engagement

1. All parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
2. All parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.
3. Parents and school staff should be equal partners.
4. The responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.

(Beyond the Bake Sale, pages 27-46)



Why does Parent Involvement Matter?

- Partnerships and student academic achievement are closely linked.
- Partnerships help build and sustain public support for the schools.
- Families and the community can help schools overcome the challenges they face.
- Teachers can benefit from parent and community partnerships.
- The No Child Left Behind Act provides partnership opportunities that can help schools meet the requirements of the law.

(Beyond the Bake Sale, pages 2-9)



Four Federal Requirements

- Annual Parent Involvement Meeting
- District and School Parent Involvement Policies
- School-Parent Compact
- Parent Notification of Staff Qualifications



Title I Annual Meeting

The purpose of a Title I annual meeting, a requirement for all Title I schools, is to explain the school's Title I program and tell parents about their right to be involved in their child's education. A flexible number of additional meetings at different times of the day during the school year should also be provided to get Title I information to as many Title I parents as possible. The annual meeting can be the first step in setting the tone and opening the door for positive school-home partnerships.



Key information to be shared during the annual meeting

- **Title I purpose:** Explain what Title I is and what it looks like at your school.
- **Title I jargon:** Define key terms, such as schoolwide, targeted assistance, AYP, school improvement, public school choice and supplemental education.
- **Curriculum & assessments:** Give details on your school's curriculum. Share information about state and local assessments, including what subjects and grades are tested and expected proficiency levels.
- **Funding:** List how much Title I funding your district and school receive and share how those funds are used. Consult on how parent involvement funds are to be used.
- **Parent Involvement:** Review and update the parent involvement policy. Get input from parents on how they would like to be involved.
- **Compacts:** Review the school-parent compact, including how it's developed and ways parents can provide input, update as needed.



Title I Annual Meeting (cont.)

- **School report card:** Share results from your most recent school report card and tell parents where they can get a copy of it.
- **School Improvement:** Go over the school's improvement status. Explain what areas, if any, are identified as In Needs Improvement and what interventions or supports are provided to students as a result.
- **Staff qualifications:** Review teacher and paraprofessional qualification requirements and parents' right to know the qualifications of their child's teacher.
- **Parent notices:** Review the list of notices that the school will provide for parents, including school report cards, staff qualifications, and if applicable, SES and school choice.



Documents to save

- **Parent Involvement Policy:** A copy of the policy and any recommended changes to be made to it after reviewing it.
- **Invitations:** A copy of the invitation sent to parents about the meeting. This includes flyers, newsletters, website announcements, etc.
- **Sign-in sheet:** A signed, dated copy of the parent sign-in sheet that clearly labels the event as a Title I annual parent meeting.
- **Agenda and meeting materials:** A copy of the agenda that lists what information was shared with parents. A copy of any slide presentations, handouts or other materials used. Save minutes of the meeting that include the items covered and any questions or suggestions given by parents. Have a staff member snap some photos during the meeting.
- **Other meeting evidence:** Keep a record of any costs or other evidence that you provided childcare and transportation (if the school deemed this was necessary based on local needs).
- **Evaluations:** Copies of any evaluations completed by parents that provided feedback on the meeting.



Honoring Families

- Adopt a Partnership Philosophy
- Embrace Your Families
- Listen and Respond to Families

(Beyond the Bake Sale, pages 56-59)



Title I Parent Involvement Policy

- In addition to Rule 10 Parent Involvement Policy
- District and Building Policy Requirements
- Must be written
- Must be reviewed annually with parent input
- Does not require Board approval



District P.I. Policy Requirements

Meets all NCLB/ESEA Requirements

Describes how the District will:

- Involve parents in development of the plan
- Plan effective parent involvement activities
- Build capacity for strong parental involvement
- Coordinate strategies with other programs
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the policy
- Involve parents in activities



School (Building) P. I. Policy

Describe how the school will:

- Convene annual meetings at convenient times
- Involve parents in planning, review and improvement of the policy
- Provide parents with information about curriculum, assessments and academic standards
- Provide opportunities for parents to participate in educational decisions of their child



School P. I. Policy (cont.)

- ❑ Jointly develop with parents, a School-Parent Compact that outlines shared responsibilities
- ❑ Provide assistance, opportunities and/or support materials in a format and language parents can understand
- ❑ Provide opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency or parents with disabilities, in a format and language they can understand



What Questions Should Your Policy Answer?

- What is the school's vision of the importance of working closely with families?
- How will the school be family-friendly?
- How will the school build personal relationships with families?
- How will the school honor families' contributions and build on their strengths?

(Beyond the Bake Sale, Pages 314-319)



School-Parent Compact

Jointly developed with parents and describes:

- ❑ The school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction
- ❑ Ways in which parents can be responsible for supporting their child's learning
- ❑ The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis



Five Steps for Focusing Your Compact on Learning

1. Look at school's test data with parents.
2. Set priorities for improvement and establish a goal for each one.
3. Ask parents, students and school staff what could be done to meet the goals.
4. Focus the compact on concerns that have come up in discussions.
5. Draw up a first draft, ask for comments and revise based on parents', teachers' and students' reactions.



Sample District Policy

_____ Public Schools Title I Parent Involvement Policy

_____ Public Schools recognizes that a child's education is the responsibility shared by both school and parent/guardian. This shared responsibility requires that parent/guardians actively participate in the education of their children and that they are informed of the educational practices affecting their children. In compliance with federal law, Section 1118(a) (2), ESEA (No Child Left Behind), the _____ Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. To involve parents in the development and review of this plan.
2. To plan effective parental involvement activities.
3. To build capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. To coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with other programs.
5. To conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
6. To involve parents in activities.

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

- *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- *that parents 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 carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA (No Child Left Behind).*



Sample Building Policy

_____(School Name)_____ Parent Involvement Policy
_____(District Name)_____
_____, 20__

_____(School Name)____ intends to follow the parental policy guidelines in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 as listed below. The policy and the plan to implement it have been developed jointly with parents from our building. It will be distributed to all parents at the beginning of the year in a format and language they can understand.

- Parents are involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Parent Involvement Policy and the School/Parent Compact at our Annual Parent Meeting where they will be informed of the Building’s Title I participation.
- Opportunities for parents get involved and participate in decisions related to their child’s/children’s education will be held at convenient times for parents to allow for better participation. Some of these opportunities are:
 - (List own examples in each of the grey areas)*
 - Back to School Night
 - School Open House
 - Annual Parent Meeting
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Reading Night
 - Math Night
 - Family Game Night
 - PTA – meetings & activities
- Parents will be provided in a timely manner, information regarding curriculum, academic assessments used and proficiency levels through:
 - (List own examples in each of the grey areas)*
 - The student handbook
 - Curriculum Night
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Standardized Tests results
 - Progress reports & report cards
- Parents have the opportunity to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the building’s Title I Schoolwide program through: Schoolwide Programs Only
 - (List own examples in each of the grey areas)*
 - Climate Survey
 - Annual parent meeting
 - _____ committee meetings
 - _____ Advisory Board
 - Development of the School Improvement Plan
- The school provides materials and training to help parents understand topics and to work with their child to improve their students’ achievement through:
 - (List own examples in each of the grey areas)*
 - Reading & Math take home activities
 - Parent night handouts
 - District standards handouts
 - Workshops for parents
 - Reading Night
 - Math Night
 - Game Night
 - Open House
- Parents of all students are welcome and encouraged to get involved with their child’s school and education. Accommodations will be provided for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including translators, transportation, childcare or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training sessions.



Sample District & Building Policy

Title I Parental Involvement Policy

_____(District)____ intends to meet the expectations of the parental involvement policy through the following activities and when feasible, in a language that parents can understand:

1. Involve parents in the developing the Title I parental involvement plan
2. Plan effective parental involvement activities
3. Build capacity for strong parental involvement
4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with other programs.
5. Conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy
6. Involve parents in activities

Each school that receives Title I funds shall distribute this policy to parents of those children served in Title I. The school shall:

1. Convene annual meeting(s) at convenient time(s) to which all parent of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend - will inform them of their school's participation in the Title I program, explain what Title I is and the requirements associated with it.
2. Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the school parent involvement policy
3. Provide parents with timely information regarding curriculum, academic assessments used and proficiency levels
4. Provide opportunities for parents to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children
5. Jointly develop and review with parents a school-parent compact that outlines shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement
6. Provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials for helping parents to understand topics relating to their students' academic achievement in a format and when feasible, in a language the parents can understand
7. To the extent practicable the school shall provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format and a language such parents can understand



Sample School-Parent Compact

School-Parent Learning Compact

_____ School
20__ / 20__ School Year

Teacher:

It is important that students achieve. I agree to do the following:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to your child while being aware of the specific needs of your child.
2. Regularly communicate with you on your child's progress.
3. Provide a safe, positive, and healthy learning environment for your child.
4. Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.
5. _____

Teacher Signature _____

Parent / Caring Adult:

I want my child to achieve; therefore I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff to support and challenge my child.
2. Make sure my child is at school every day and on time, unless he/she is ill.
3. See that my child has the necessary supplies needed throughout the school year.
4. Provide a quiet place and time to do schoolwork and encourage my child to complete schoolwork.
5. _____

Parent Signature _____

Student:

I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability. I agree to do the following:

1. Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick.
2. Come to school each day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
3. Be responsible for my own behavior.
4. Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
5. Return completed schoolwork on time.
6. Read at home.
7. _____

Student Signature _____



Resources

- USDE Title I Part A Parent Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance
- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/parentinvguid.pdf>
- USDE Parent and Family Engagement
- <http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement>
- USDE Title I Programs
- <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>
- NCLB Action Briefs: Parental Involvement
www.ncpie.org/



Resources

- Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships. Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, Davies
<http://www.education.ne.gov/CIPToolkit/familycommunity/BakeSale.html>
- Harvard Family Research Project
<http://www.hfrp.org/>
- PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide
http://www.pta.org/files/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf



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