

POLICY

PLEASANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

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GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

The school district will incorporate this District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy into its school district's plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full 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 under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the school district's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event the school district is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the district's Title I, Part A allocation, the school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects Title I schools in the district will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving pupil 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, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below (Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA):

1. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. The district will hold an annual meeting for parents as well as school staff, principals, and other interested persons to discuss the Title 1 Plan, review implementation of Plan, and discuss how funds will be used.
 - b. Provide parents with a copy of the district's PIP – to give input and suggestions for revisions
 - c. Follow the district's LEP plan for LEP students and communicate with parents regarding the process. Coordinate with various agencies to assist parents of LEP students.
 - d. Notify parents through newsletters, parent-school organization meetings and district web-site.
 - e. Include specific communication to parents through the use of school newsletter, district web page, the location and time of BOE meetings which will allow for audience input and comments.

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2. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. At each school form a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)-consisting of teachers, administrators, parents and community members.
 - b. Form a district parent involvement /advisory committee consisting of district administration, teacher, parents and community members.
 - c. Provide parents copies of district assessment reports and opportunities at individual schools to attend informational meetings with school staff regarding interpretation and the use of the reports.
 - d. Provide parents opportunities to meet with teachers and review educational records regarding their child progress in school.
 - e. All schools will distribute monthly newsletter to parents indicating school data reports.

The school/district will hold meetings, conferences and other activities regularly through the year to build parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts. Meetings will include parent training sessions re: Reading, Understanding and Interpreting School and Student Data

3. The district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve pupil academic achievement and school performance:
 - a. Implement and coordinate parent programs. Build ties between parents, schools and community.
 - b. Allocate district resources to individual schools to support parent involvement activities and programs based upon a school's particular need.
 - c. Provide specific communication to parents through the use of a school newsletter and district web page regarding volunteer opportunities available for district and school committees. Included but not limited to, the Parent/ Teacher/Committee – Organization, SCiP Committee, Safety Committee, DEAC, Special Ed. Advisory Com, ELL Advisory Committee.
 - d. Provide named resources and support opportunities for parents to help with their student's academic, physical and social and emotional development. Opportunities may be offered through special workshops or parenting classes through the school district or individual schools.

Provide district level and building level in-service training to staff at individual schools to promote awareness of the importance of PI in their children education. Encourage development of building specific opportunities to increase PI at the school.

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4. The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: (Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs), by:
 - a. District will coordinate with Early Childhood Program and District Early Childhood Providers to conduct activities that encourage and support parents in the education of their students

5. The school district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parental Involvement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parental Involvement Policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

(List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play):

- a. Conduct a parent survey to measure a schools PIP
- b. Conduct a teacher survey
- c. Prepare Parent Focus Questionnaire and Teacher Focus Questionnaire to target specific areas and to design strategies for more effective parent involvement and to revise this policy.

The school district will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve pupil academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

1. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:
 - New Jersey's academic content standards;
 - New Jersey's pupil academic achievement standards;
 - The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;

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- The requirements of Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

(List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success.)

- a. Understanding the State's CCSS
- b. State and local Assessment
- c. How to monitor Student Progress
- d. How to work with school staff to improvement student achievement

2. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, 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:

- a. Coordinating the Implementation of district parent training.
- b. Provide a district calendar to parents of district training opportunities. Use of web-site, school newspaper to communicate.
- c. Implement a variety of communication strategies to provide information to parents about training opportunities
 - Allocate district resources to individual schools to support parent involvement activities and programs based upon a school's particular need.

3. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools 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:

- a. Coordinating the Implementation of district parent training for parents and staff
- b. Provide a district calendar of district training opportunities. Web-site, school newspaper to communicate
- c. Implement a variety of communication strategies to provide information to staff regarding pertinent information
- d. Identify out of district training opportunities
- e. Allocate district resources to support parent involvement activities and programs based upon parent's particular need.

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4. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children, by:
 - a. Inclusion of all programs in PI meeting/activities.
 - b. Communication of all district programs in district newspaper, bulletin's and communications to parents

5. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Follow the district's LEP plan for LEP students and communicate with parents regarding the process. Coordinate with various agencies to assist parents of LEP students.

DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY ACTIVITIES

The additional information outlined below lists and describes discretionary activities the school district, in consultation with its parents, may undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;

Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;

Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;

Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

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ADOPTION

This District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This Policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand, at the beginning of each school year or when the child is determined eligible and begins participating in Title I, Part A programs.

United States Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance – Appendix D- District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Adopted: 26 September 2006
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