

# **Title I Parent Involvement Policy**

2011-2012

## **Parent involvement**

Parent Involvement Policy is jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to, all of the parents of participating children.

- Schools will to the extent possible, 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 in language that the parent can understand.
- Furthermore, schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities at the school level with other federal, state and district programs.
- The parent policy will be presented for discussion and approval with parents and the community during fall parent meetings at schools.
- The policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by a team of people – including parents, community members, school and district administrators, and school faculty and staff members – to continuously meet the changing needs of our parents, students and schools.

## **Shared responsibility – School-Parent Compact**

The School-Parent Compact, jointly developed with, agreed upon with and distributed to all parents, will describe how parents, students, principal and the entire school staff will share in the responsibility for high student achievement.

A team of people – including parents, community members, school and district administrators, including principal, and school faculty and staff – will annually review the School-Parent Compact.

## **Building capacity for involvement**

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the parents, community and schools to improve student achievement, we will:

- Assist parents in understanding South Carolina’s academic and achievement standards by disseminating pamphlets, handouts, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops and Open Houses.
- Communicate and monitor a child’s progress by weekly folders, six-week report cards, IEP meetings, parent-teacher conferences, dissemination of PASS information and a letter offering an explanation and academic plans.
- Assist parents in helping them to improve achievement of their children through *Families And Schools Together (FAST)*; *Parenting Effectiveness, Creating Lasting Family Connections*; adult education and students’ weekly folders.
- Educate teachers and other staff members, with the assistance of parents, in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents through PTA, PTO, and SIC, conferences, workshops and staff development.
- Send information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to the parents in a format and language they can understand through newsletters, PTA meetings, school improvement council, PTO meetings, school calendar, parent/student handbook and student planner.
- Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with the school through open door policy, suggestion box, designated time to meet with the principal and /or teachers and parenting workshops.
- Provide other activities to promote parental involvement through I Love Learning Week, Celebrate Great Teaching, National Education Week, Celebration of Excellence, Field Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, parenting workshops, and volunteer and mentoring programs.

## **Parents’ full participation**

- Convening an annual meeting at a convenient time to inform parents of the school’s participation in the Title I program, the requirements of Title I law and their right to be involved
- Schools may use their Open House, Meet and Greet, or other beginning of the year gatherings as an opportunity to provide information to parents.

- Offering a flexible number of meetings and parent trainings at convenient times for parents to participate, give suggestions and take part in decisions regarding the instructional program of the school. School Improvement Council, PTA, PTO and other school-sponsored groups give schools the flexibility needed to offer meetings at convenient times for parents to give their input on Title I programs.
- Parents are involved in an “organized, ongoing and timely way” in the planning, review and improvement of the Parent Involvement policy and Title I programs.
  - Parents will receive timely information about Title I programs.
  - The Parent Involvement Policy will be reviewed throughout the year as PTA, SIC, Title I, and other parent groups meet.
  - Changes to the program, new information as well as review and evaluation of the policy and programs will be included as an agenda item for these meetings.
- Giving opportunity for parents to submit comments on the plan and the school-wide programs if it is not satisfactory to participating parents
  - Schools use Suggestion Boxes and surveys to provide opportunity for parent comments.
- Sharing jointly in the development of the school-parent compact
  - Parents share in the development of the compact during a series of meetings.
  - Agendas and sign-in sheets are maintained as record of all meetings.
- Supporting a partnership among the school, community and parents to improve student academic achievement
  - Schools engage business partners, the faith community, county and city governments, local media and other groups to support the academic program.
- Providing assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state’s academic standards, assessments, monitoring student progress and working with their children – Schools provide extensive assistance to parents in a variety of ways including workshops and trainings and at home activities.
- Coordinating and integrating parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, and public preschool and other programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
  - The Southside Early Childhood Center houses Head Start, Early Head Start and preschool disabilities programs.
  - Parents are encouraged to participate in activities held at Southside.
- Ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language the parents understand.
  - Specific areas have greater populations of ESL/ESOL families.
  - Every effort is made to ensure that information is sent home in a format and language that parents understand.
  - Internet translations services and interpreters are used for this purpose.
- Providing full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language such parents understand-
- Making every effort is made to afford all parents the opportunity to participate in school activities.
- Providing reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request – Schools make every attempt to meet the needs of parents who make special requests.