

Adopted: January 28, 2019 [New Policy] [Mandatory MSBA Policy/Modified]

Contact Person: Assistant Superintendent

POLICY 612.1 DEVELOPMENT OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES FOR TITLE I PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

To encourage and facilitate involvement by parents of students, who live within the District boundaries, participating in Title I:

- in the educational programs and experiences of students.
- decisions about the Title I services.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The District will plan and implement, with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children, programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and families in its Title I programs.
- B. The District will fully comply with 20 U.S.C. § 6318 which requires the District to develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to parents of children participating in Title I programs written parent and family engagement policies.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT LEVEL POLICY

Administration will develop jointly with, agree upon with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that will be incorporated into the District's Title I plan. The Policy will establish the expectations for meaningful parent and family involvement and describe how the District will:

- A. Involve parents and family members in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the development of support and improvement plans;
- B. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the District in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;

- C. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with similar strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs;
- D. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who have an economic disadvantage, have a disability, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or who are of a racial or ethnic minority background); the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel; and strategies to support successful District and family interactions;
- E. Use the findings of such evaluations to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the district-level and school-level parent and family engagement policies; and
- F. Involve parents in the activities of the schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the District to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the District for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL LEVEL PLANS

Administration of each Title I school will develop (or amend an existing parent involvement plan) jointly with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement plan, agreed upon by such parents and families, that shall describe the means for carrying out the federal requirements of parent and family engagement. Parents shall be notified of the plan in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such plan shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

- A. The plan will describe the means by which each school with a Title I program will:
 - 1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain to

parents of participating children the program, its requirements, and their right to be involved;

2. 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;
 3. Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of the parental involvement programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan, except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children;
 4. Provide parents of participating children with: timely information about Title I programs; a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards; if requested by parents, 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; and
 5. Submit any parent's comments of the school-wide plan if the plan is not satisfactory to the parent/family of participating children, when it is submitted to the District.
- B. As a component of this plan, each school shall jointly develop with parents a School-Family Compact which outlines how parents, 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 shall:
1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to meet state student academic achievement standards;
 2. Describe the ways each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning by volunteering in their child's classroom and participating, as appropriate, or in decisions relating to their child's education and use of extracurricular time.

3. Address the importance of communication between staff and parents on an on-going basis through the use of:
 - a. Parent-teacher conferences to discuss the compact and the child's achievement;
 - b. Progress reports to the parents; and
 - c. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, participate in the child's class, and observe in the child's classroom.
 - d. Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.
- C. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, and community to improve student academic achievement, the plan will describe how the District will:
 1. Provide assistance to participating parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and state academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
 2. Provide materials and training to assist parents in working with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
 3. Educate 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 school;
 4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children to the extent feasible and appropriate;

5. Ensure, to the extent practicable, that information about school and parent meetings, programs, and activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
 6. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.
- D. The plan will also describe the process to be taken if the District and school choose to:
1. Involve parents in the development of training for staff to improve the effectiveness of such training;
 2. Provide necessary literacy training with funds received under Title I programs if all other funding has been exhausted;
 3. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
 4. Inform and support parents in how to enhance the involvement of other parents;
 5. Arrange meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, and parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in school-related activities;
 6. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
 7. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and business in parental involvement activities; and
 8. Establish a District format for parents to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs.

- E. To carry out the requirements of parent and family engagement, the District and schools, to the extent practicable, will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that is understandable by the parents.
- F. The District and each school shall inform parents and parent organizations of the existence of family engagement in education programs.

The policies will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the District.