

## **Preston County Schools Parent Involvement Policy**

### **Parent Involvement in Title I Programs**

In accordance with the requirements of Federal law, programs supported by Title I funds must be planned and implemented in meaningful consultation with parents of the students being served.

Each year the school district will work with parents of children served in Title I Programs in order to jointly develop and agree upon a proposed written parent involvement policy to establish expectations of the involvement of such parents in the education of their children. The proposed policy shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Education and distributed to parents of children receiving Title I services. The proposed policy must describe how the County will:

- A. Involve parent in the development of the County's Title I plans and in the process of school review and improvement, if necessary;
- B. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance;
- C. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- D. Coordinate and integrate parents involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs such as Headstart, Parents as Powerful partners, Born Learning, Starting Points, DHHR, and private daycares.
- E. In consultation with parents, annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of schools, including:
  - 1. Identifying barriers to greater parent participation;
  - 2. Designing strategies for more effective parental involvement; and,
  - 3. Revising the parental involvement policy if necessary;
- F. Involve parents of children receiving Title I services in deciding how Title I funds reserved for parent involvement activities will be allocated;
- G. 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 a format, and to the extent practicable in a language, such parents can understand;

- H. Conduct meetings with parent including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to be better assure their attendance at meetings;
- I. Develop agendas for parent meetings to include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessments, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- J. Provide opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decision-making about the program and revisions in the plan;
- K. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- L. Communicate information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance to parents;
- M. Assist parents in helping their children in achieving the objectives of the program;
- N. Provide timely responses t parental question, concerns, and recommendations;
- O. Coordinate and provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist Title I schools to develop effective parent participation activities to improve academic achievement;
- P. Conduct other activities as appropriate to the Title I plan and State and Federal requirements.

The school district must also assure that each Title I participating school develops a specific written plan, with parental involvement and agreement, which includes provisions regarding the following:

- A. Each principal must convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend to explain the parents' rights to be involved and the school's obligations to develop a parental involvement plan.
- B. Meetings with parents of children receiving Title I services must be scheduled at flexible times and may offer assistance such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid offered to parents to encourage their involvement.

- C. Parents must be involved in an organized, on-going and timely way in the development, review, and improvement of parent involvement activities.
- D. Parents of participating students' must be provided with:
1. Timely information about the Title I program and the school's parent involvement policy;
  2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels expected;
  3. Regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions, and to participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and receive responses regarding the parent's suggestions about their student's education as soon as practicably possible.
- E. As a component of the school parental involvement policy, the principal for each Title I school shall coordinate the development of a school-parent compact jointly with parents which outlines how the school staff, the parents, and the student will share responsibility for academic improvement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve State standards. The compact must:
1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment;
  2. Describe the parent's responsibility to support their child's learning environment such as monitoring attendance, homework, extra-curricular activities and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children;
  3. Address the importance of parent/teacher communication on a on-going basis through at least annual parent teacher conferences to discuss achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to their child's progress; and reasonable access to the staff and to observe and participate in classroom activities.
- F. Parent of children receiving Title I services must be notified about school parent involvement policies in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. These policies must also be made available to the community.
- G. School parent involvement policies must be evaluated periodically to consider whether they meet the changing needs of parents and the schools.

In order to involve parents in the education of their children and to support a partnership among the school, parents and the community for improving students achievement, the school district and building principals must include provisions in the County and school parent involvement policies regarding:

- A. Assisting parents of children served under Title I in understanding the State's academic content and assessment standards, and in understanding how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve their child's achievement.
- B. Providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement;
- C. Educating teachers, student services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, about the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and how to build ties between parents and the school;
- D. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordination and integration of parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal programs;
- E. Providing such reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents may request.

In order to build the County's capacity for parent involvement, the school district and building principals may also:

- A. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers and administrators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- B. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- C. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- D. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- E. Establish a County-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement programs;
- F. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.