

Preston County Schools

Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Preston County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- 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 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 LEA 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 and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA 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 State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 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 that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) 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;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center (known as West Virginia Parent Connections) in the state.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Preston County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section n1112 of the ESEA:
 - Parent advisory meetings will be scheduled by November each year with invitations sent out to parents to attend meeting to review/revise parent involvement plan/policy as needed.
 - Schools will establish parent advisory committees that will be actively involved in scheduled school level meetings.
 - Meetings will be scheduled at each school that will include district staff, parents, and county Title I personnel for discussion, planning, implementing, and evaluation of parent involvement programs.

2. The Preston County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will be involved in regular scheduled meetings at the LEA level.
 - Annual surveys sent out for parent/public input.
 - Joint meetings will be held with district Title I staff and the Title I Advisory Committee.
 - Ongoing dialog with regular classroom teachers, County staff, and principals.

3. The Preston County School 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 student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Regularly scheduled parent meetings/conferences will occur at the start of the school year to inform parents of Smarter Balance/WESTEST results and define the impact those test scores have on each school and design a plan of action with parents to address those issues.
 - Schools will provide the necessary support, technical assistance, and coordination to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement in the form of books, research materials and best practices.
 - Workshops/training sessions will be provided for parents on “how to” work with specific skills with their children to make learning more effective.
 - County schools and LEA level personnel will design, implement, and review work sessions to build the parents’ capacity for strong parent involvement as defined by standards addressed with No Child Left Behind.

4. The Preston County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as: Head Start, Parents As Teachers, Tadpoles, and State-operated preschool programs, by:
 - County Entities programs will develop collaboration with other agencies to design a seamless program and transitional processing of our children into Pre-K and Kindergarten programs.

- Regular meetings that link all programs together must have representation and input in discussions and decision making.
 - Funds will be made available for parents to be actively involved in county, state, and national level sessions.
 - Scientifically researched based materials must be made available to parents as well as training sessions to work with parents to have a better understanding of implemented programs and strategies.
5. The Preston County 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.
- Each identified school will be required to conduct an annual needs assessment that can be in the form of surveys, interviews, etc., to identify barriers to greater participation by parents regardless of their backgrounds. Title I staff will coordinate the survey.
 - Title I teachers and Parent Advisory Committee members at each identified school will use the gathered information to develop a plan to improve the participation of their parents with regards to student achievement. Suggestions: varied scheduled dates and times for meetings, varied locations for meetings, various-sized groupings depending upon the task to be accomplished.
 - Each identified school will develop an agreed upon compact that all responsible parties will sign. Compacts will state responsibilities that will be in compliance with NCLB as well as consequences with noncompliance.
6. The Preston County School District will build the schools' and parents' 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 student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. 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 in this paragraph –

- the State’s academic content standards,
- the State’s student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child’s progress, and
- how to work with educators

Provide workshops and/or reading material will be on:

- WV Next Generation Standards
- 21st Century Skills
- WESTEST/Smarter Balance and how to ask the right questions of educators
- How to help with homework
- Specific skill (reading, mathematics, writing) strategies
- Positive behavior – respect – acceptance of others
- Organizational Skills – student work areas at home, assignment books, two-way communication
- Test-taking
- Team Building
- Book studies

B. 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:

- Provide workshops and reading material.

- Establish computer labs during various time slots so that parents can actually work with programs that their children use and understand.
 - Establish a Read Aloud program to encourage participation in schools.
- C. 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:
- Provide workshops that are scheduled by the LEA, designed by parents and teachers.
 - Schedule workshops at different locations with the help of county staff for housing and programming.
 - Workshop topics: See above
 - Design/purchase specific program pamphlets, brochures, and newsletters.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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 more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- Collaboration meetings with the different entities to share information.
 - When possible, combine funding to extend activities rather than limit resources.
 - Coordinate with Head Start, DHHR, Starting Points, and private day cares to provide parent support.
- E. 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:

- School Messenger
- nMonthly newsletters
- Open House letters
- Phone calls – Parent
- Activities published in the local newspapers
- Colorful flyers from programming/activities

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Preston County School District, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents’ capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118 (e) of the ESEA:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- 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;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents my request.

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