

## **POLICY B.7**

### **SUBJECT: ONEONTA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

The Board of Education, recognizing that parental involvement is essential to the success of the child, is committed to a strong parent-school partnership. The Board of Education further recognizes the rights of parents/persons in parental relation to be fully informed of all information relevant to their children, including children who participate in programs and projects funded by Title I. Therefore, the Board of Education encourages the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education, including the development and implementation of district programs, as well as activities and procedures that are designed to carry out No Child Left Behind (NCLB) parental involvement goals.

#### **District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy**

In order to facilitate parental partnership, in accordance with NCLB requirements, as outlined in Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the District will:

- A Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Plan. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the District will submit any parent comments with the plan when it is submitted to the State Education Department;
- B Develop a written parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement. The policy will be developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, the parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. The policy will be incorporated into the District Title I Plan, distributed at the annual Title I information meeting, made available at each Title I school, and posted on the District website;
- C 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). These programs, activities and procedures will be developed as a result of meaningful consultation with parents of participating children;
- D Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance by:
  - 1. establishing a high-quality curriculum and instruction throughout the district that enables all students to meet the State's academic standards,

2. providing staff development focusing on the relationship of effective parental involvement to improved student achievement,
3. using the District website to disseminate information regarding working with children at home and to serve as a clearing house for parental involvement activities, and

E Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through implementing and encouraging participation in appropriate parental involvement activities by:

1. offering meetings to explain the State's academic content and student achievement standards, and State and local assessments,
2. providing training in understanding and using materials at home that support the schools' curriculum,
3. inviting parents to share their talents, interests and occupations with school groups, and
4. encouraging parents to visit and observe their child's classroom;

F Coordinate and integrate to the extent appropriate, parental involvement strategies under Title I with those of other programs including, but not limited to, Head Start, Universal and Targeted Pre-K and other programs that encourage and support parental participation in the education of their children;

G Involve parents in the activities of the Title I schools by:

1. convening an annual meeting for parents of its Title I schools to explain their schools' programs, Title I requirements and the right of parents to be involved,
2. holding meetings at flexible times that focus on curriculum, strategies and skills emphasized by Title I staff, and ways to work with children at home,
3. providing newsletters to inform parents of upcoming events,
4. training parents in the use of technology as a learning tool, including how to access and use the District and State websites, and
5. publishing and making available the schedule of State assessments.

H Involve parents of children in Title I programs in decisions regarding how funds reserved for parental involvement are spent by soliciting input and suggestions from the District Title I Parental Involvement Advisory Council to develop meaningful activities; and

I Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the Title I schools by:

1. identifying barriers to greater participation by parents through consultation with school guidance counselors, building administrators, classroom teachers, and building-level and district leadership teams,
2. documenting parental involvement activities in each Title I school, and

3. surveying parents regarding their understanding of the policy, their right to be involved and the effectiveness of the parental involvement program.

The District Title I Coordinator, Parental Involvement Coordinator and Title I Parental Involvement Advisory Council will review the findings of the evaluation at its annual planning meeting. More effective parental involvement strategies may be designed and, if necessary, the parental involvement policies at the District and school levels will be revised.

### **School-Level Parental Involvement Policy**

In accordance with Section 1118 the Board of Education directs each school receiving Title I, Part A funds to ensure that a building level parental involvement plan is developed with the participation of that school's parents. In addition to the goals stated above, each school will:

- A Invite all parents of participating students to the annual district-wide Title I information meeting and encourage them to attend;
- B Inform parents of participating children of the reasons their children are participating in the program, and of the specific instructional services, objectives and methods to be implemented;
- C Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as in the morning or evening; and may provide (with funds provided under this provision of law) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;
- D Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parental involvement policy;
- E Provide parents of participating children with timely information about programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use in Title I programs, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and 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
- F Develop a school-parent compact jointly with parents outlining how the parents, school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and detail the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help all children achieve the State's standards. The compact must include:
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    1. A description of the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served in Title I schools to meet the State's student academic achievement standards,
    2. A description of the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, television watching, volunteering in their child's

classroom and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time, and

3. Means to address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis including, but not limited to:
  - a. Parent-teacher conferences, at least once per semester, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement,
  - a. Quarterly reports to parents on their children's progress, and
  - a. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community in order to improve student academic achievement, the District and each school shall:

- A Hold meetings and provide printed materials to assist parents of children served by the District or school, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments;
- B Provide printed information and workshops focusing on strategies to assist parents in monitoring a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- C Provide monthly newsletters, book bag reading kits and other materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement;
- D Provide information on community resources that offer training to parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English;
- E Provide training to use and access the District and State Educational Department websites and their links to parental involvement sites;
- F Encourage parents of Title I children to become involved in shared decision-making groups such as parent-teacher organizations, building teams and district leadership teams to facilitate in educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in the value and utility of contribution 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 the school;
- G Coordinate and integrate to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Universal and Targeted Pre-K 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; and
- H Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

In addition to the above activities which are required for the District and each school, the District and each school:

- A. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- B. May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- C. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- D. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- E. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- F. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- G. May establish a District-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
- H. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and
- I. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, the District and schools, to the extent practicable, shall 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 6311 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

### **Procedures for Filing Complaints/Appeals**

The District will disseminate free of charge to parents of children in Title I programs, and to appropriate private school officials or representatives, adequate information regarding the District's written complaint procedures for resolving issues of violation(s) of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to Title I, Part A programs.

## **Comparability of Services**

The School District shall ensure equivalence among the schools in the District of the same grade span and levels of instruction with regard to teachers, administrators and auxiliary personnel as well as equivalence in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies in Title I programs.

Adopted: 7/07/10