

TITLE I PROGRAMS**Parent Involvement in Title I Programs**

Note: The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 continues the federal requirement that districts receiving Title I funds have a policy on parental involvement. Minor changes to this requirement were implemented with NCLB. Districts are no longer required to assist parents in understanding the national education goals. On the other hand, districts may now establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in Title I programs. Districts must provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of migratory students, to the extent practicable. General requirements continuing from previous years include the mandate that districts conduct, with parental input, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy. Additionally, each of the district's schools with a Title I program must have its own parental involvement policy created with input from parents of students attending that school. Finally, parents must be notified of the parent involvement policy.

These procedures meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind, except that they were not created with input from parents in your district. Each Board and individual school site should obtain parental input, as required by NCLB.

Each school shall support and encourage parental involvement opportunities, as identified in a school parent involvement policy. The policy must be developed in cooperation with parents and should include the following:

1. A plan for effective two-way communication between parents and the school regarding the school's policies and rules, and an individual child's progress;
2. A commitment from the school that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner;
3. A description of the school's responsibilities to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
4. A description of the parents' responsibilities for supporting their children's learning such as monitoring attendance and homework completion; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
5. A description of how the school will promote to teachers and other personnel the value and utility of the contributions and involvement by parents;
6. The availability of assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic achievement and assessment standards;
7. The availability of materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement;

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8. The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum –
 - a. frequent reports to the parents on their children's progress;
 - b. parent-teacher conferences to discuss the child's progress and placement and to describe the methods used to complement the student's instruction;
 - c. reasonable access to teachers and other educators, including the opportunity to observe program activities;
 - d. an annual meeting, at a time convenient for parent attendance, where all parents shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to discuss and review the content and effectiveness of the school parent involvement policy;
9. The timely notice to parents of information about parental involvement programs;
10. Insofar as possible, the coordination and integration of parental involvement activities with community groups;

In facilitating effective parental involvement, the Principal/Site Administrator may:

1. Provide regular meetings, at parent request, where parents may formulate suggestions and participate in decision-making about the education of their children;
2. Ensure, insofar as possible, that opportunities for full participation are given to parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English;
3. Involve parents in the development and training of teachers, principals, and other educators in order to improve the effectiveness of such training;
4. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
5. Establish a parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement activities and programs.

Insofar as practical, parental involvement materials and information shall be provided in a language and format that parents understand.

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