

5480

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The West Allegheny 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 each 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.

For states where a Parental Information and Resource Center is established, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center.

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

1. **The West Allegheny School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental Involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:**
 - Invite parents of Title I students to meeting where the parent involvement policy will be developed and modified as needed.
 - Convene an annual meeting to review the district and school parent involvement policy, and solicit input with regards to needed modifications, additions or deletions to the policy.
 - Ensure that parents of Title I students are provided with the opportunity to attend the annual meeting by scheduling such on various dates and times to ensure the participation of all parents who wish to do so.

2. The West Allegheny 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 included on the District's Act 48 committee.
- Parents will be included on the District's Strategic Plan committee. Parents will be involve in the annual review of the Title I program, be encouraged to give input regarding this and other programs, and will be surveyed to evaluate said programs.

3. The West Allegheny 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:

- Conduct an annual evaluation of the parental involvement activities developed.
- Conduct an annual evaluation of the Title I program, as relates to individual Title I schools and the program as a whole.
- Solicit input regarding the improvement of these activities.
- Conduct a survey to determine the needs of parents of Title I students regarding their needs in relation to methods to improve student achievement.
- Provide the time for Title I staff to meet with the parents of eligible children to address student progress and needs, as well as parent needs.

4. The West Allegheny School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following programs: DART, HEAD START, local preschools, etc.

District representatives will attend annual IEP and transition meeting to make parents aware of the various programs available in the District. Parents will be given the opportunity to visit the school prior to their child beginning the school year. Local preschools will be provided with the opportunity to bring their students to the school for a visit during the school day to tour and spend time in the kindergarten classrooms. A Kindergarten Orientation will be held in the spring of each year tailored for parents, to provide information and answer questions regarding the schools programs, registration process, etc. A summer orientation will be held for both parents and students.

5. The West Allegheny School District will build the schools' and parent's 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 information to parents regarding various parent workshops available through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, The State Parent Advisory Committee. Additionally, funds will be provided through the Title I Part A grant to supplement travel for these workshops for parents who have an interest in attending. Annually, parents of students receiving Title I services will be provided with copies of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for reading, math, writing and science. The No Child Left Behind Law will be explained to parents at the annual meeting and/or at parent workshops provided by the District. Meetings will be held individually and as a group to explain and heighten parent awareness of local assessments (including Scantron Performance Series, Vantage Writing assessment, student portfolio assessment, classroom assessment and Title I assessment) and state assessment (PSSA). Workshops will be provided to train parents in areas related to assisting their child to progress academically, and to achieve proficiency in all academic areas. Training sessions will be held to prepare parents to act as volunteers in the District's schools.

- 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 to parents, on an annual basis copies of various publications intended to assist parents in understanding and promoting their child's academic achievement.
 - Provide specific training sessions to parents, based on annual needs assessments, in the areas of literacy, technology, study skills, understanding of the Pennsylvania State Standards, anchors, writing skills, etc.
 - Provide to parents on an annual basis a Title I brochure explaining the program goals, methodology, and information regarding staff.
- 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:
- Providing professional development in the areas of effective communication, conferencing skills, utilizing parent volunteers in the classroom,
 - Assisting parents in how to effectively engage and work with their children at home, use of the library, best practices with homework, etc.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, 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:
- Provide parents of children in these programs with notification of workshops, training sessions, volunteer opportunities, etc. through child staff meetings.

- Communicate with local preschools and day cares regarding the District curriculum when warranted and
- 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:
- Through the English as a Second Language Program staff, communication of school events will be given to and explained to parents.
 - Translation of notification of meetings, workshops, test scores, District Report Card, PSSA results, etc., through the PDE provided services.

PART III. **DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

NOTE: The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the 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:

- Parents will be included on the District's Act 48 Committee to develop effective training/professional development activities for staff.
- Through the Title I program funding, childcare will be provided when necessary so that parents may attend workshop/training sessions provided by the District.
- Staff will provide opportunities for parents to attend conferences, workshops and training sessions at a variety of times to promote parents ability to attend sessions.
- Parents will be encouraged to participate in the role of trainers through school volunteer programs, workshops, etc.