

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICTPROGRAM
2112/page 1 of 4**PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

The term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

Through this policy, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The Parental Involvement Plan shall reflect the Board's commitment to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

- () cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
- () providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools;^{1,2}
- () providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers;^{1,2}
- () providing coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities.²

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
2112/page 2 of 4

B. Effective Communication

- () providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
- () providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{1,2}
- () promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
- () communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{1,2}
- () providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ²
- () providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Michigan's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{1,2}
- () preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{1,2}

C. Volunteer Opportunities

- () providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ²
- () supporting other needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events. ²

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROGRAM
2112/page 3 of 4

D. Learning at Home

- () offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2}
- () working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;
- () helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ¹

E. Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy

- () involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ²
- () involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families. ^{1,2}

F. Collaborating with the Community

- () building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources; ^{1,2}
- () coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development. ^{1,2}

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICTPROGRAM
2112/page 4 of 4**Implementation**

The Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The plan will be distributed to all parents and students through publication in the Student Handbook or other suitable means. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.

¹Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

²Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

[NOTE: Districts should select all footnoted () options included in this template in order to have a policy that meets the requirements of State and Federal law and program requirements of Title I.]

Sec. 1112, 1118 ESEA
M.C.L.A. 380.1294

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICTPROGRAM
2261.01/page 1 of 3**PARENT PARTICIPATION IN TITLE I PROGRAMS**

In accordance with the requirement of Section 1118 of Title I, programs supported by Title I funds must be designed and implemented in consultation with parents of the students being served.

The Superintendent shall ensure that the Title I plan contains a written statement of guidelines which has been developed with, approved by, and distributed to parents of participating students. The guidelines shall describe how:

- A. the District expects the parents to be involved in the program, including their participation in the development of the plan;
- B. meetings will be conducted with parents including provisions for flexible scheduling and whatever assistance the District may be able to provide parents in order to better ensure their attendance at meetings, and for providing information in a language the parents can understand;
- C. meetings will include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessment, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- D. opportunities will be provided 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;
- E. parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- F. information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance will be communicated to parents;
- G. parents will be assisted in providing help to their children in achieving the objectives of the program by such means as ensuring regular attendance; monitoring television-watching; providing adequate time and the proper environment for homework; guiding nutritional and health practices; and the like;

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICTPROGRAM
2261.01/page 2 of 3

- H. timely responses will be given to parental questions, concerns, and recommendations;
- I. the District will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist Title I schools to develop effective parental participation activities to improve academic achievement;
- J. an annual evaluation of the parental involvement plan will be conducted with parents, identifying any barriers to greater parental involvement (such as limited English, limited literacy, economic disadvantage, disability, etc.) and devising strategies to improve parental involvement;
- K. the parental involvement plan will be coordinated with other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, and Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters;
- L. other activities will be conducted as appropriate to the plan and State or Federal requirements.

The Superintendent shall also assure that each Title I participating school develops a specific plan, with parental involvement, which:

- A. convenes an annual meeting at a convenient time to which parents of participating children are invited to attend to explain the parents' rights to be involved and the schools obligations to develop an involvement plan;
- B. will devise a flexible meeting schedule and describe assistance to encourage parental involvement, such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid;
- C. will involve parents in an organized, on-going and timely way in the development, review and improvement of parent involvement activities;
- D. will provide participating students' parents with:
 - 1. timely information about the Title I programs;

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICTPROGRAM
2261.01/page 3 of 3

2. an explanation of the curriculum, the forms of academic assessment and the proficiency levels expected;
 3. regular meetings, upon request, to make suggestions and receive response regarding their student's education;
- E. develops jointly with parents a school-parent compact which outlines the responsibilities of the school staff, the parents and the student for academic improvement, including:
1. the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum, and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment;
 2. parent's responsibility for such things as monitoring attendance, homework, extracurricular activities and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom;
 3. the importance of parent teacher communication on an on-going basis through at least annual parent teacher conferences to discuss achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to the parents; reasonable access to the staff and opportunities to observe and participate in classroom activities.

20 U.S.C. 6318, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.