

NCPiE BULLETIN

Volume I Issue 2 • Parent Involvement Policy Statements

Did you know that... many school districts across America must have a written parent involvement policy?

The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents new opportunities to partner with schools to ensure children receive the very best education possible.

According to the No Child Left Behind Act signed into law by President Bush January 8, 2002, every school district in America that receives Title I funds and every school that receives Title I dollars must have a written **Parent Involvement Policy**. **This policy must be developed jointly with, approved by, and distributed to parents of participating children and the local community**. It must ensure that strong strategies are in place in every Title I school that encourage and sustain active parent involvement. These activities should be designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

What You Need To Know:

The law requires that each parent involvement policy statement be written **together** by parents and school personnel. This requirement allows parents to sit at the table with school administrators and educators to help write an involvement statement that addresses how every school, through partnership with parents will promote the **social, emotional, and academic growth of children**. Parents are now required to be a part of the discussion about how schools will help all children meet the state's challenging content and student performance standards. This policy is the foundation for **home-school partnerships** and should address the full range of family and student needs that impact learning. It should be specific and should articulate how parents will be assured adequate and meaningful involvement.

Every school receiving Title I money is required to:

- Develop with parents a written parent involvement policy that is then distributed to parents and made available to the local community
- Convene a convenient annual meeting of parents to inform them of the policy and their right to be involved
- Offer flexible parent involvement meetings and if necessary with Title I money provide child care, transportation or home visits
- Involve parents in an organized and ongoing way in the planning, review, and improvement of school programs
- Develop with parents a school-parent compact that outlines actions to be taken to improve individual student academic achievement
- Build capacity for parent involvement in the school by helping parents understand academic content standards and state academic achievement standards and assessments, as well as provide materials and training to parents, teachers, pupil services personnel and other staff designed to foster greater parental involvement
- Integrate activities with other programs: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, English as a Second Language, Head Start, etc.

Every school district receiving Title I money is required to:

- Develop a written parent involvement policy jointly with parents, agreed on with parents, and distributed to parents
- Include parents in the development of school district and individual school improvement action plans
- Provide technical assistance and support for schools to develop and implement effective parent involvement policies and programs
- Coordinate and integrate Title I parent involvement strategies with those of other programs, i.e., Head Start, Reading First, Even Start
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual review of the effectiveness of the parent/family involvement policy in increasing the participation of parents/families and use the review to identify and correct any barriers to parental participation

What You Can Do:

Ask your **Principal** or **Superintendent** if your school/district receives Title I funds. If so, ask for a copy of the policy. Find out who helped to write the policy, how many were parents and when the annual review of the policy is scheduled to take place. Become a member of the policy team and work with school officials to **get the policy off the page and into an active parent-school partnership**.

Examples of Parent Involvement Policies:

We're looking for examples of high quality policies with effective action plans. If you feel you have one, fax it to us at 703-359-8973.

Where to go for more Information:

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education **Policy Guidelines:** www.ncpie.org/DevelopingPartnerships/PolicyGuidelines.html

Council of Chief State School Officers **Links to State Education Agencies:** www.ccsso.org/seamenu.html

State Title I Directors web-site: www.titlei.org (click on contacts and scroll down to State Directors)

No Child Left Behind Act Citations:

Section 1118

Local PIRC and Parent
Leader Contact Information

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

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