

NORTH SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Part I. General Expectations

The North Schuylkill 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 in the State.

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The North Schuylkill 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:
 - (a) Send an invitation to parents/guardians of all Title I students to attend meetings to develop the Parental Involvement Plan. Times will vary to meet the needs of the parents.
 - (b) Send a questionnaire asking for parental input of those who were unable to attend the meetings.
 - (c) Give parents several other options to respond and participate which could include telephone, e-mail or other correspondence.
2. The North Schuylkill School District will take the following action to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - (a) Parent will be invited to an annual end of the year meeting to review the Title I program.

- (b) An end of the year survey to evaluate the past year's program will be distributed. The survey will include an area for comments and parental suggestions for program improvement.
- 3. The North Schuylkill 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:
 - (a) Make available to the parents any local workshops, meetings, and conferences.
 - (b) Parent/teacher conferences.
 - (c) Title I parent/teacher meetings.
- 4. The North Schuylkill School District will coordinate and integrate parental Involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Preschools, and local early childhood programs by:
 - (a) LEA teachers visit Head Start Programs to interact with students, teachers and parents in the pre-school environment.
 - (b) The Child Development Center visits the LEA kindergarten classrooms and school facilities. Parents are included in this experience.
 - (c) Local preschools and day care centers and the student's parents are also invited to visit the LEA in order to familiarize themselves with our facilities and teachers.
- 5. The North Schuylkill School District will take the following action to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - (a) Parents and Title I teachers together will annually evaluate the parental involvement policy.
 - (b) Title I teachers will conduct the evaluation at the annual end of the year parent's meeting.
 - (c) The policy will be reviewed by parents and teachers by reading through its content. A discussion and comment period will follow. Necessary revisions will take place if needed at that time.
 - (d) The parent's role will be to help with the review and revision.

1. The North Schuylkill 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 requirement of Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators:

- (a) Title I Parent involvement workshops
- (b) Parent Awareness Training Conferences
- (c) Send home copies of academic standards
- (d) Make parents aware of websites that pertain to academic standards
- (e) Quarterly progress reports, PSSA results, standardized test results, quarterly report cards

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:

- (a) A + Learning System Software
- (b) Reading Connection Newsletter
- (c) Read-at-home program
- (d) No Child Left Behind "Helping Your Child" book series

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:

- (a) When available, in-district training for teachers and staff on parent involvement practices

- (b) Out of district conferences
 - (c) Maintain our parent volunteer program
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, public preschool programs, daycare centers, and local early childhood 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:
- (a) Visitations between Head Start and preschool programs to support the transition of the children and parents to the kindergarten environment
 - (b) Make parents aware of the services that are available within the school
- 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:
- (a) Parents will receive information about parent programs via: Parent information letters sent home with students. These must be signed, dated and returned to school.
 - (b) Weekly school newsletters informing parents of activities for the following week.
 - (c) Monthly calendars outlining activities and events for the upcoming month
 - (d) Upon request alternate formats will be provided.

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:

- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, Title I staff, and North Schuylkill School District administration.

This policy was adopted by the North Schuylkill School District on _____
And will be in effect for the period of one school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children during the month of September 2006.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(date)