

Parent Involvement Policy

POLICY ON PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Laurel 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 1116(b) 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 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 8101 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 1116 of the ESEA.

PART II. HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Laurel 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:
 - Inclusion of parents in the development of the district policy
 - Joint parent-teacher-administrator task force meeting, held annually to review and update the district parent involvement policy
 - Inclusion of parent involvement policy in student handbook

2. The Laurel School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Conduct annual parent surveys, conveying parent satisfaction levels/school climate issues
 - Promote parent participation in school strategic planning, for every school.
 - Promote involvement of parents in advisory task forces, such as but not limited to Positive Behavior Supports committees, district dress code committee, district attendance committee, district discipline policy
 - Conduct parent-teacher conferences at least twice per year

3. The Laurel 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:
 - District-level leadership of elementary committees
 - District-level oversight of Title I budget and usage of 1% for parent involvement
 - Monthly strategic planning with building leaders to align building strategic plan actions with district-wide initiatives

4. The Laurel School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Ongoing Child Find activities
 - Coordination and consultation with HeadStart
 - ELL support offering literacy classes to parents of ELL students

5. The Laurel School District will take the following actions 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.
 - Annual data collection for the consolidated grant, relative to parent participation, collected by the building principals and consolidated at the district level for an annual report
 - Building level Title I meetings, in conjunction with Open House and Family Night meetings
 - Parent satisfaction survey, completed at the superintendent level

6. The Laurel 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 Laurel 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:
 - *Open Houses and Meet-the-teacher activities*
 - *Parent-teacher conferences, with varied times available*
 - *Active parent-teacher groups in each school*
 - *Creative Family Nights, related to curricular initiatives*
 - *Title I informational meetings, incorporated into parent-teacher activities and Open Houses*

- B. The Laurel 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:
- Agenda books purchased for each student when adequate grant funds are available
 - Monthly newsletters
 - Website updates
 - Purchase of parent support materials, as part of curricular adoptions
 - Purchase of parent support materials, in Spanish when available
 - Provision of translation of Student Handbook and other parent notices
- C. The Laurel 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:
- Training of staff at regular staff meetings
 - Family Night activities
 - Annual paraprofessional inservice training
 - Inclusion of parent communication and involvement in RTI process and planning
- D. The Laurel 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:
- Consultation with HeadStart
 - Programming with teachers in Early Childhood programs
- E. The Laurel 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:
- Inclusion of Parent Involvement Policy in Board policy and in Student Handbooks
 - Spanish/English translator on staff and available for parents
 - Student handbook in Spanish
 - Creole translator available on a contractual basis
 - Documents translated into Spanish and Creole as much as possible

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT COMPONENTS

- Providing literacy training for ELL parents using Title I, Part A and other appropriate funds
- Providing child care costs to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting telephone conferences with parents
- Adopting and implementing “best practices” in terms of approaches to improve parent involvement