



Parental Involvement / Family Engagement Fact Sheet

Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services Team

What is Parental Involvement per the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)?

Parental involvement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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; and
- That other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA (Parental Involvement).

What are Title I districts and schools required to do regarding parental involvement?

The following must be developed and implemented:

- District Parental Involvement Policy;
- School Parental Involvement Policy;
- School-Parent Compact; and
- Building Capacity for Involvement.

What must be included in a Parental Involvement Policy?

The following should be incorporated in the policy:

- PTA National Standards;
- Involve parents in developing district improvement plans;
- Offer technical assistance and coordination to help schools plan parental involvement activities to improve student and school academic performance;
- Build school and parent capacities for strong parent involvement;
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with other programs, such as Head Start and any early childhood program that currently exists in your district; and
- Annually evaluate, with parents, the effectiveness of the policy in academically improving district schools.

What are the PTA National Standards?

The National PTA highlighted six standards it believes are essential for any school or program involving parents and families. The six standards identified are:

- Regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school;
- Promotion and support of parenting skills;
- Active parent participation in student learning;
- Parents as welcome volunteer partners in schools;
- Parents as full partners in school decisions that affect children and families;
- Outreach to the community for resources to strengthen schools.

What must a school-parent compact include?

The following should be included in the compact:

- Describe a responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to meet the state's challenging student academic achievement standards;
- Describe the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning such as:
 - Monitoring attendance;
 - Homework completion;
 - Television watching;
 - Volunteering in their child's classroom, etc.;
- Address the importance of establishing ongoing, good communication between teachers and parents through, at a minimum:
 - Annual parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools;
 - Frequent progress reports to families on student academic progress; and
 - Reasonable access to staff and opportunities to volunteer, observe, and participate in classroom activities.

What meetings must schools hold to inform parents about Title I, Part A programs and parental involvement?

Each school served under Title I, Part A must convene an annual meeting to explain the requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. Schools must invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting and encourage them to attend.

What are Parents Right-to-Know?

According to ESEA, under Title I, districts must communicate required information regarding the annual progress of the school with parents whose children are provided Title I services.

Which districts are required to provide an annual notice regarding Parents Right-to-Know?

Any district that receives Title I funds must provide annual notice.

When must the district notify parents?

At the beginning of each school year, the district shall notify the parents of each student attending any Title I school receiving funds.

What information is required in the annual notification regarding Parents Right-to-Know?

- The notification should explain that parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher, including, at a minimum, the following:
- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

What additional information are schools required to provide?

- In addition to the information that parents may request, a school that receives Title I funds must provide to each individual parent:
 - Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part; and
 - Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

What is meant by providing information to parents with limited English proficiency, "to the extent practicable," in language parents can understand?

- This means that, whenever practicable, written translations of printed information must be provided to parents with limited English proficiency in a language they understand.
- If written translations are not practicable, it is acceptable to provide information to limited English proficient parents orally in a language they understand.

What reservation of funds is required for parental involvement?

- A district with a Title I, Part A allocation of \$500,000 or more is required to spend at least **one (1) percent** of its allocation for district and school-level parental involvement activities, including family literacy training and training to enhance parenting skills.
- Districts with allocations of \$500,000 or less are also responsible for implementing parental involvement activities, although no minimum allocation is required.

Must parents be involved in the decisions regarding the use of these funds?

- The district **must involve parents** of Title I, Part A participating children in decisions about how it allots to schools the funds the district has reserved for parental involvement activities.
- The involvement of parents should be in a manner consistent with the definition of parental involvement.
- A district may choose to use its district-wide parent advisory council (if it has chosen to establish one) to provide advice on this and other matters relating to Title I, Part A programs.

May districts reserve funds for district level parental involvement activities?

- Not less than 95 percent of the funds reserved shall be **distributed to schools** served under this part.
- Only five (5) percent of the set-aside may be allotted for district use.

May a school or all schools within a district use their share(s) of the one percent reservation for parental involvement under section 1118(a)(3)(C) to support a district-level parent resource center or some other district-level activity for parents?

- The law is clear that **95 percent** of the one percent of Title I, Part A allocation the district reserves for parental involvement under section 1118 must be distributed among the district's schools, and that the parents of those schools must be involved both in deciding how those funds will be allotted, and once allotted, how they will be spent.
- Parents of children receiving Title I, Part A services and school officials may decide at the school level to pool their individual resources to pay for district-level parental involvement activities, such as a parent resource center.

What resources are available?

- The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)/ www.kpirc.org.
- A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement/ <http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit/index.html>.

Who should be contacted with questions?

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