

SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Under Section 1118 of Title I, the following are all required:

I. **DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**¹

- A. The policy must be jointly developed with the Title I parents of the school.²
- B. The policy must be agreed upon by the Title I parents of the school.³

II. **CONTENTS OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

The parent involvement policy must spell out HOW each of the following requirements will be carried out.⁴ (Simply repeating the law or making a vague statement about what will happen is not enough to describe *how* these requirements will be carried out.)

A. POLICY INVOLVEMENT⁵ – The school must:

- 1. Convene an annual meeting,
 - a. at a convenient time [see 4. below],
 - b. to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to
 - c. inform parents of their school's participation under this part and
 - d. to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.⁶
- 2. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely, **in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I**, including:
 - a. The planning, review, and improvement of the parent involvement policy
 - b. The joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b)(2).⁷
- 3. Provide parents of participating children with:
 - a. Timely information about Title I programs under this part,⁸ and
 - b. A description and explanation of:
 - (1) the curriculum in use at the school,
 - (2) the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
 - (3) the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;⁹
 - c. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings [see 4. below] to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children;¹⁰ and
 - d. Respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible,¹¹
- 4. Regarding the parent meetings: offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.¹²

B. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.— THE SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT.¹³

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy developed under subsection (b), each Title I school jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which

the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact must—

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the State's student academic achievement standards,¹⁴
2. Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time,¹⁵
3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum—
 - a. Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - b. Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
 - c. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.¹⁶

C. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT.¹⁷

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under Title I must —

1. Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;¹⁸
2. Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;¹⁹
3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;²⁰
4. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs,²¹
5. Conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;²²
6. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;²³ and

7. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. [In other words, if parents request other kinds of support for parent involvement that are reasonable, the school must provide them.]
8. And may do the following [remembering that “may” means that it is up to the school and parents together, in developing and agreeing on the parent involvement policy, to decide whether these things should be provided] :
 - a. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;²⁴
 - b. Provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;²⁵
 - c. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;²⁶
 - d. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;²⁷
 - e. Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;²⁸
 - f. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;²⁹
 - g. Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;³⁰
 - h. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities;³¹ and
- D. ACCESSIBILITY.—In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, must 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 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.³²

REMEMBER – HOW THE SCHOOL WILL CARRY OUT EACH OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN A. THROUGH D. ABOVE MUST BE SPELLED OUT IN THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY THAT IS JOINTLY DEVELOPED WITH, AND AGREED UPON BY, THE PARENTS OF THE SCHOOL

III. DISTRIBUTING AND REVISING THE SCHOOL’S PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY³³

- A. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.
- B. The policy shall be made available to the local community.
- C. The policy shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. [Revisions should be made consistent with the requirements in I. for jointly developing and approving the policy.]

References – Here are the subsections of section 1118 where these requirements are found

1. (b).
2. (b)(1). The policy must be jointly developed with, and agreed upon by, the “parents of participating children.” In a schoolwide Title I program, this means all parents in the school. In a targeted assistance program, this means the parents of those children selected to participate in the Title I program – i.e., those students in need of extra assistance because they are furthest from attaining the state standards.
3. (b)(1).
4. (b)(1).
5. (c).
6. (c)(1).
7. (c)(3). In addition, if the schoolwide plan in 1114(b)(2), is not satisfactory to Title I parents, the school must submit any parent comments on the plan when it sends the plan to the LEA. (c)(5).
8. (c)(4)(A).
9. (c)(4)(B).
10. (c)(4)(C).
11. (c)(4)(C).
12. (c)(2).
13. (d).
14. (d)(1).
15. (d)(1).
16. (d)(2).
17. (e).
18. (e)(1).
19. (e)(2).
20. (e)(3).
21. (e)(4).
22. (e)(4).
23. (e)(14).
24. (e)(6).
25. (e)(7).
26. (e)(8).
27. (e)(9).
28. (e)(10).
29. (e)(11).
30. (e)(12).
31. (e)(13).
32. (f).
33. (b)(1).