

Title I District Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Purpose:

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parent involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State Educational Agency (SEA).

General Expectations

The Penn-Trafford 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 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.*
- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the LEA.

Description of How District Will Implement Required District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

1. The Penn-Trafford 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:
 - At the Annual Title I meeting, the Parent Involvement Policy will be addressed.
2. The Penn-Trafford School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - During Parent Advisory Council meetings, parents will be informed of current academic activities within the Title I buildings. Parents can review, critique, and make suggestions to the Title I program.
3. The Penn-Trafford 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:
 - The Title I Coordinator will work closely with school and district administrators to ensure assistance and support are given to Title I, Part A schools.
4. The Penn-Trafford School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Notify parents of kindergarten registration through Prospectus, Superintendent Bulletin, district website, and notice in the newspaper.

- Kindergarten Orientation meeting for students eligible to enter kindergarten in the spring of each school year
 - Conduct kindergarten readiness each school year for all students eligible to enter kindergarten
 - Provide a summer transition program, “Summer Learning Camp” for all eligible kindergarten students
5. The Penn-Trafford 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.
- The Title I Coordinator and Title I teachers will create a parental involvement survey based on the needs of the Title I Part A school. The survey will be sent home with each student. The results will be posted on the district’s website and used to revise the parental programs.
6. The Penn-Trafford 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 assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child’s progress, and
 - how to work with educators
- The district’s Title I buildings will:
1. Provide an informational workshop to parents explaining the State’s academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, the State academic assessment (PSSA) and alternate assessment (PASA).

2. Individual student academic assessment results from the State assessments (PSSA, PASA) will be presented to parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences each year.
 3. Parents are notified of student academic progress through mid-quarter reports, quarterly report cards, notes and telephone calls from the student's teacher(s).
 4. Information regarding Title I sponsored workshops and conferences will be sent home.
 5. Provide pertinent parental information such as the district's report card and Title I website.
- 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:
1. Parent involvement with student reading for all 3 Title I schools. The books will be arranged on mobile carts and made available to our Title I students for practice at home with the student's parents. The books are arranged that one side is written at an adult level and the other side is at the student's level. This promotes parents modeling fluency, vocabulary, etc.
 2. Title I sponsored parent workshops will be held at various times throughout the school year to inform and train parents how to work with their children to improve academic achievement.
- 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:
1. All staff members in the school district are involved in professional development activities as required under Act 48.
 2. All district staff members are encouraged to attend workshops and conferences to further their professional development.
 3. Provide School-Parent-Student Compacts that addresses the role of each for academic success of each child.
- D. The 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:

1. Parent involvement with student reading for all 3 Title I schools. The books will be arranged on mobile carts and made available to our Title I students for practice at home with the student's parents. The books are arranged that one side is written at an adult level and the other side is at the student's level. This promotes parents modeling fluency, vocabulary, etc.
 2. Title I sponsored parent workshops will be held at various times throughout the school year to inform and train parents how to work with their children to improve academic achievement.
 3. Provide School-Parent-Student Compacts that addresses the role of each for academic success of each child.
- 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:
1. All material sent to the parents and/or community is first reviewed and approved by the building principal.

Discretionary District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

The Penn-Trafford School District recognizes that the child's education is the responsibility shared by the school and the family. To effectively educate all students, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

The district defines parent and family involvement as an on-going process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child's first educator, promote clear two-way dialogue between home and school, and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.