

DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Penns Manor Area 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 Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the funds 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.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in Pennsylvania
- The word “parent” includes the following: legal guardian or grandparent.

PART 11: DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Penns Manor Area 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 parental planning committee will be established that includes not less than three parents, two local daycare providers, elementary principal and the Title I staff. This committee will meet at least twice during the year or as needed to involve the committee in reviewing planned activities and academic programs.

2. The Penns Manor Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Parents will participate in the review and improvement process by having an active role on the parental planning committee.

3. The Penns Manor Area 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:

All parents will be surveyed and have input into what activities should be included in the Title I, Part A plan for effective involvement by parents.

4. The Penns Manor Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Title I K4 program, local daycare providers, Parent/Teacher Group and mini-grants as available by:

Parents active in the Head Start, Title I K4 program, local daycare providers and Parent/Teacher Group will be encouraged to participate in special presentations on Back To School Night, coordinated by Title I staff. Parents and children will engage in working together on various activities during the night.

5. The Penns Manor Area 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, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

Evaluations will be conducted during or following each planned activity with a more extensive evaluation at the annual meeting. Parental involvement committee will review results and discuss appropriate changes or additions to revise as needed the parental involvement policy.

6. The Penns Manor Area School District will build the school's and parents' 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 requirements of Part A.
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

Parents will receive and have access to resources both in-school and at home pertaining to achievement standards, homework, etc. through workshops, conferences, library time, and various materials. A parent resource library will be established and maintained in the Title I bookroom. Staff members will attend workshops and conferences to keep updated on current issues and programs. Information will be distributed and presented to parents on a timely basis.

- 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:

Involvement includes computer lab time for parent/child interaction with various software programs during the Back To School Night. Other activities will include classroom workshops with parents participating with the child in reading activities. A summer library program will encourage parents to bring their children and participate in the literacy and activity programs.

- 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:

Teachers will receive in-service on home/school connection through a series of workshops on classroom management. Materials and resources will be distributed to teachers to build better communication with parents. Through the use of the building newsletters, all staff will receive timely advice and information on implementing better communication with the home.

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Title I K4 Program, local daycare providers and Parent/Teacher Group, and other programs, conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Through a summer library program, parents involved in the Head Start, Title I K4 Program, local daycare providers and Parent/Teacher Group will be able to access materials and participate in activities that would encourage and support the parent in their child's education. A summer reading program will bridge the gap between school years and include parents in the activities.

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent program, meetings and other activities, is sent to 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:

All notices regarding classroom workshops, Family Night, Family Day, parent conferences, and other events, will be sent to parents either by individual mailings or by distribution in the classrooms. Notices will be presented in a language that parents understand.

PART III DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Penns Manor Area 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:

- (1) Provide 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;**
- (2) Pay 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;**
- (3) Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;**
- (4) In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;**
- (5) Establishing a district-wide parent involvement committee to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;**
- (6) Provide 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 on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by minutes with attendance.

This policy was adopted by the Penns Manor Area School District on April 12, 2006 and will be in effect, beginning on that date. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before the beginning of the school year.

Signature of Authorized Official

Date