



CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The following district level policy establishes Chester Upland School District's expectations for parental involvement, while describing the specific steps and measures necessary for attainment of the ultimate goal – strengthening student academic achievement – under each area of compliance. This policy is especially relevant to those schools receiving Title I, Part A funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as 'No Child Left Behind.'

Furthermore, this district level policy is fully supported and enhanced by the building level policies in effect at the sites supported with Title I, Part A funds.

I. General Expectations

A. The Chester Upland School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schoolwide schools, 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 Title I parents.
2. 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.
3. The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
4. 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.

5. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the our Title I 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.

6. The school district will involve the parents 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.

7. 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.

II. Implementation

A. Joint Development - The Chester Upland School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan:

- 1 *Solicit Parent Participation from school-based Parent Advisory Councils*
- 2 *Build capacity with parents for the task of development and/or review*
- 3 *Review and critique sample policies*
- 4 *Conduct 'gap analysis' with regard to Parent Involvement requirements*

B. School Review and Improvement - The Chester Upland School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

1. Presentations of quarterly assessment results to Board
2. Publication of District Report Card
3. Dissemination of PSSA/AYP Results
4. Spring 'Needs Assessment' process
5. Fall and Spring Title I Annual Meeting/Dinner

C. Technical Assistance to Schools - The Chester Upland 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:

1. Provide copies of current research and guidance
2. Provide Templates and Checklists
3. Schedule regular and on-going meetings with staff
4. Provide appropriate professional development materials

D. Coordination of Parent Involvement Strategies - The Chester Upland School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as Head Start, and others by:

1. Establishing contact and communication with I.U. Representatives
2. Meeting with various Program counterparts on a regular basis
3. Federal Programs Coordinator will act as liaison with Head Start, etc.

E. Policy Evaluation - The Chester Upland 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:

1. Establish baseline participation criteria and data
2. Review participation on the basis of content, time, appeal, etc.
3. Conduct parent surveys
4. Review participation in terms of numbers and events
5. Solicit suggestions and input thru direct mail, website, etc.

F. Capacity Building for Parents - The Chester Upland School District will build the schools' 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:

1. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schoolwide schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, the State's student academic achievement standards, the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, the requirements for Part A, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators, by undertaking the following actions:

- a) Provide in-house workshops for Technology and Literacy
- b) Contract consultants for PSSA and Academic Standards presentations
- c) Establish a video library for parenting and academic needs
- d) Provide opportunities for parents to attend workshops
- e) Provide opportunities for parents to observe the academic environment
- f) Provide take-home materials

G. Parent Training - 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, through:

- 1 Workshops
- 2 Conferences
- 3 Consultants
- 4 Videos, Books, and Materials

H. Communication - 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 school, by:

- 1 New Teacher Induction program
- 2 Regularly scheduled meetings with Title I Staff
- 3 Providing timely information with regard to print media, district website, local access channel (CUSD Channel 11, website), etc.

I. Coordination of Programs - The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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. Establishing contact and communication with I.U. Representatives

2. Meeting with various Program counterparts on a regular basis
3. Federal Programs Coordinator will act as liaison with Head Start, etc.
4. Coordinating through various agencies such as 'Communities That Care'

J. Quality of Communication - 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 Assess district LEP needs and population
- 2 Review systematically all home/school communications
- 3 Solicit parental input with regard to communications
- 4 Invite paraprofessional participation and review of communications
- 5 When appropriate, use oral communication with an aide

III. Adoption

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of Title I, Part A schoolwide programs.

This policy has been adopted by the Chester Upland School District. The school district further assures that this policy shall be distributed to all parents.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)