

Detroit Public Schools
Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy
This policy has been developed jointly with parents

Introduction

The Detroit Public Schools Title I Parent & Family Engagement (the “DPS Parent Engagement Policy”) is based upon the belief that supporting partnerships between families and schools is necessary to improve schools and reinforce the importance of student achievement.

Policy

It is the policy of Detroit Public Schools (the “District” or “DPS”) to include parents, as appropriate, in decision-making, planning, advising, and implementing activities to improve academic quality and student performance. Parent/family involvement means the participation of parents/families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The DPS Parent Engagement Policy is consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Expectations for Parents/Families

Detroit Public Schools strives to maximize parent/family involvement by implementing programs, activities and procedures that emphasize effective parent/family-school collaboration and shared responsibility for high academic achievement and student success. These initiatives will be planned and implemented in meaningful consultation with parents/families of participating children with the intention of enhancing both schools’ and parents’/families’ capacities for strong involvement. Finally, Detroit Public Schools aspires to develop and maintain the capacity for productive parent/family school partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community.

A. Shared Responsibility

1. Detroit Public Schools will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementation of effective parent/family involvement activities that improve student academic achievement and school performance using:
 - Local School Data
 - Title I Allocation
 - Budget Development
 - School Improvement Planning/Teams

2. Detroit Public Schools will develop and conduct parent/family involvement annual evaluations. The evaluations will be distributed to parents to provide input regarding content and effectiveness of the parent/family involvement policy.

The evaluations will include identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities, paying 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 findings will then be used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.

3. Detroit Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A programs with other programs, when appropriate, such as:
 - Holding parent involvement activities, when appropriate, at the Parent Resource Centers to educate and train parents;

- Providing parents of early childhood education students with kindergarten expectations;
- Holding annual kindergarten roundup for incoming kindergarten parents;
- Translating materials in a language that parents of participating children can understand; and
- Making parent activities available to all interested parents.

B. Collaboration

1. Detroit Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will have the opportunity to participate in the development/revision of the district-wide parental involvement policy through focus groups, workshops and personal interviews.
 - Parents will meet at least two times per year to provide advice on matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
2. Detroit Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents/families in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Engage the Office of Research, Evaluation, Accountability and Assessment to perform a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) to assess Title I Part A program effectiveness and assist in programmatic revisions;
 - Involve parents at local schools to regularly review school and district programs and make recommendations for program improvements;
 - Local schools shall jointly develop with parents of participating students a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff and students will develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards and schools with grades K through 8th will review the Parent/Teacher/Student Compact during Parent Teacher Conference;
 - Convene annual Title I meetings at local schools outlining the use of Title I funds and requesting parent input in order to meet the needs of Title I students; and
 - Ensure each Title 1 school has a written parental involvement plan, which meets the requirements of Section 1118 of ESEA.

C. Capacity Building

1. Detroit Public Schools will build the schools' and parents'/families' capacity for strong parent/family involvement through the following activities specifically described below:
 - a. In partnership with its Title I, Part A schools, DPS will provide training to parents/families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - State academic content standards;
 - Michigan Educational Assessment Tool(s);
 - How to monitor their child's progress;
 - How to work with educators to effectively communicate with parents.
 - b. With the assistance of its schools, DPS will provide materials and training using technology, as appropriate, to help parents/families work with children to improve academic achievement using:
 - The Detroit Public Schools Academic Portal;
 - Wayne County Regional Education Agency Student Information Agency (WC- RESA SIS);
 - Parent Resource Centers.

- c. With the assistance of its schools and parents/families, DPS will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners by:
 - Meeting with school representatives to coordinate the planning and implementation of parental involvement activities to enhance effective communication;
 - Assisting schools with translation of materials as needed;
 - Providing tools to teachers, principals, administrators, and local school staffs on how to effectively communicate with parents;
 - Establishing a communication process/system.
 - d. To the extent feasible and appropriate, DPS will coordinate and integrate parent/family involvement programs with early childhood education programs, and conduct activities that will encourage and support parents/families in more fully participating in the education of their children.
 - e. DPS will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents/families of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/families can understand:
 - Translate materials and information in three different languages: Arabic, Bengali and Spanish;
 - Make available translated materials and information in the Parent Resource Centers; and
 - Provide workshops in various languages.
 - f. DPS shall provide such other reasonable support for parent/family involvement activities under this section as parents/families may request.
2. Detroit Public Schools will involve parents/families in the activities of the schools served under this part by:
- Providing opportunities for parents to participate in the development of district events and activities;
 - Creating opportunities for parents serving on different committees to provide feedback and input on all district activities;
 - Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
 - Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care cost, to enable parents and families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
 - Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
 - Maximizing parent/family involvement and participation by arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other staff who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
 - Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
 - Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs, and
 - Developing partnerships with community-based, faith-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.

Adoption

The concepts in this Detroit Public Schools Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy have been developed jointly with, and agreed on, by parents of students participating in Title I, Part A programs. The required parental involvement activities will be implemented to the extent ESEA funds such requirements under 20 U.S.C. § 6318. The school district will make this policy available for parents of participating Title I, Part A students on its adoption.

Jean-Vierre Adams
General Counsel

Date

Parent Representative

Date

Parent Representative

Date

Parent Representative

Date

Monica Johnson, Program Supervisor
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Date

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