

Monroe County Schools District-Wide PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Monroe County Schools 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 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 Monroe County's 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 West Virginia 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 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.

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 State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

. . . actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan:

On October 1, 2009, the Title I director will hold a meeting of representative parent stakeholders from both Mountain View and Peterstown Elementary School. This meeting will be held at the board of education office. This meeting will meet two purposes -

1. The parents will review the district wide parental involvement policy and its components. Once parents agree on the policy as written or amended, this policy, as adopted, will be distributed to all Title I parents. If further suggestions for adoption or revision arrive, these will be considered by the parent stakeholders at a subsequent meeting.
 2. The parents will also review their respective school's parental involvement policy and its components. Once parents agree on the policy as written or amended, this policy, as adopted, will be distributed to all Title I parents. If further suggestions for adoption or revision arrive, these will be considered by the parent stakeholders at a subsequent meeting.
- Monroe County will involve the parents and guardians of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent involvement is spent.
 - While parents were involved in the strategic plan, the parent representatives at this October 1, 2009 meeting will also be given a copy of the county's Title I part A plan as well as the plan for ARRA fund use. Both will be discussed in-depth to allow these parents to also be able to be more fully involved and participate in the plan revision and use of budgetary funds.

. . . actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

- *Parents who serve on the 2009-10 Parent Advisory Council will be informed of the school review and improvement process and will examine their school's respective policy regarding the process and actions that are outlined to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.*
- *Parents who are part of the planning team for each school's strategic plan will be encouraged to be involved in not only the planning, revision, and budget meetings on the school plan.*

provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist . . . in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Within each school, there will be planned programs that will increase parent and family involvement. Phone calls will be made and/or notes sent to remind the parents of activities that have been organized which are intended to positively strengthen families to make them successful. Parents will be welcomed and encouraged to attend sessions provided by other

service agencies. Monroe County Schools will also schedule regular PAC meetings and work with the schools to support their parent workshop sessions, parent informational sessions and assist in making parents aware of up-coming community events that would benefit the children, the parents, or the family as a whole.

3. Monroe County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

Head Start, FMRS, ABE, special education, and the county's Universal Pre-K program and its preschool collaborative in which parents are represented.

4. Monroe County Schools 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 programs. 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 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 county has used a parent survey for some years. This instrument is designed to identify barriers of participation in parental activities. The survey will be used in the spring of 2009 by polling parents in our Title I schools to determine what will best fulfill their needs. We will also poll parents on how they wish to be involved in monitoring student progress. The input from the county's PAC will also inform us on how well Title I is meeting parent needs.

1. The Monroe County Schools 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, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will provide assistance to parents, 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 Title I-Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators.

As previously stated parent workshops will be held year-round and information will be sent home will inform parents about the content standards, achievement standards, the assessments used in our Title I schools that monitor student progress, and how parents can work hand-in-glove with educators assist with their children's education.

B. The school district will 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: the school system providing workshops and information that will assist parents in acquiring the skills necessary to assist their

students. Technology and adult literacy classes are available each library site located near the Title I schools. College access information sessions will also be made available for them.

C. The school district will 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: *providing a staff training session in the 2009-10 school year. We will partner with Edvantia on specific training for staff on how to work with parents as equal partners.*

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: *coordinating Title I parent sessions with other agencies – opening all such sessions to parents regardless of program funding. The parent resource centers will be open to ALL parents to include Title I and Head Start.*

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:

At present, we have no LEP parents. Should such parents come into our school district, the district will ask for technical assistance from WVDE on how to provide assistance in the translation of our communications to parents by mail and in person.

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS - DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

Other activities that the 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:

- Establishment of a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;

Both Title I schools have parent representation on our long-standing district wide parent advisory council. This council has been in operation for a number of years and continues to provide parent insight and advice on the betterment of the program.

- Adoption and implementation of a model approach to improving parental involvement;

Both Mountain View & Peterstown Elementary Schools operate a Parents As Teachers Program to improve parenting skills and parent involvement for those families who have children birth to four. Home visits are conducted on a monthly basis for participating parents.

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 agenda from the parent advisory council members and a lack of contrary comments from parents when policy was distributed.

This policy was adopted by parent representatives on the county Parent Advisory Council on October 14, 2009 and will be in effect for the period one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2009.

Rebecca J. Allen
(Signature of Title I director)

October 19, 2009
(Date)