Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement

5405 Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

A. Development and Annual Review

This Policy will be jointly developed and annually reviewed, amended, and distributed to Parents and family members of participating students and the local community in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the Parents can understand.

Parents and family members must have opportunities for meaningful input during the annual review process. Information about how Parents and families may provide input will be posted on the District's website. The annual review of this Policy's content and effectiveness will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise this Policy, and to remove barriers to Parent and family participation.

This Policy includes a School-Parent Compact jointly developed by the District and Parents that outlines how the Title I school, Parents, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and Parents build and develop a partnership to help students achieve state education standards.

B. Parent and Family Engagement

The District recognizes the unique needs of students served in its Title I program and the importance of Parent and family engagement in the Title I program.

1. Parent and family engagement means the participation of Parents through regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:

    a. Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

    b. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

    c. 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; and

    d. other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) are carried out.

2. Parent and family engagement activities are required under this Policy and include, for example, activities such as:

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a. an annual school meeting to: inform Parents of their school's participation under Title I, Part A; clarify the requirements of Title I, Part A; and explain Parents' right to be involved. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based on need and interest;

b. providing Parents information about the school's Title I, Part A programs, including a description of the school's: curriculum, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, proficiency levels students are expected to meet, achievement levels of the state academic standards, and coordination and integration with other federal, state, and District programs;

c. opportunities to participate in activities to build Parent involvement capacity, such as training and providing materials to help Parents to work with their students to improve achievement and encouraging volunteer work at the school as appropriate;

d. opportunities for Parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the District, if requested by the Parents or as deemed necessary by District staff;

e. coordination and integration of parental involvement programs and activities with other community programs. These may include cooperation with community programs such as Head Start, preschools, and other community services; and

f. educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of Parents, in the value and utility of parental contributions, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with Parents as equal partners.

All Parents, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or limited literacy and those who are economically disadvantaged, of a minority background, or migratory, will have opportunities to participate in Title I parent engagement activities.

Communication to Parents about student progress and other Title I matters will be provided in a language the Parent can understand, to the extent practicable. Responses to Parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

C. District Obligations

The District will:

1. operate programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of Parents in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with Parents of participating children;

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2. work with its schools to ensure that school-level Parent and family engagement practices are implemented appropriately, and include, as a component, the School-Parent Compact;

3. incorporate this Policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA;

4. provide opportunities for the informed participation of all Parents and family members, by providing information and school reports as required by law in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language Parents understand; and

5. if the LEA plan developed under this Policy is not satisfactory to the Parents of participating children, submit Parent comments when it submits the plan to the Michigan Department of Education.

D. Implementation

1. The District will take the following actions to involve Parents in the joint development of this Policy:

    - Parent/Teacher Conferences
    - Surveys
    - Using data from other screening tools and processes.

2. The District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective Parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

    - Lenawee Intermediate School District supports technical assistance for universal screenings, planning of interventions and data review.

3. The District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of Parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy:

    - Provide opportunities for parent feedback such as surveys and conferences.
    - Review results of evaluations of Title I programs

4. To encourage strong Parent and family engagement, the District will:

    a. hold an informational meeting at least annually to explain this Policy and the school's Title I programming. All Parents of participating students will be invited to this meeting. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with

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students, announcements in the school newsletter, and notice posted on the school's website;

b. provide assistance to Parents and children served by the District in understanding topics such as:

    - state academic standards;
    - state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
    - Title I, Part A requirements;
    - child progress monitoring; and
    - collaboration with educators.

c. provide materials and training to help Parents work with their children to improve academic achievement and use technology to foster Parent and family engagement by:

    - Face to face conference following beginning of the year assessment.
    - Professional development on supporting materials and processes

d. educate Employees on how to communicate and work with Parents as equal partners, implement Parent programs, and build ties between Parents and schools by:

    - Written notice of all support a student receives as well as written notice when support is changed.
    - Professional development on how to communicate and implement parent programs

e. to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate Parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant federal, state, and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support Parents in participating in the education of their children, by:

    - Literacy Pop-up in the summer in coordination with Lenawee Intermediate School District
    - Family literacy night

f. ensure that information related to the District and Parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the Parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative

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formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the Parents can understand by:

- Parents regularly receive updates in both narrative and date format

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