

Frederick Area School District Family Involvement Policy, Title I Part A Program

I. General Expectations: The Frederick Area School District Title I program family involvement defines participation of families in regular, two way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring that families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; that families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; that families are full partners in their child's education and are included in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child. The district also agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- A. After consultation of families at annual meeting, implement a Title I Part A program, activities, and procedures for involvement of families in the Frederick Elementary School.
- B. Work to ensure the inclusion of a School/Family/Teacher compact in the Title program and distribute to all students.
- C. Incorporate the district wide family involvement policy into the Consolidated Application
- D. Provide full opportunities for the participation of families with LEP, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children in an understandable and uniform format and, include alternative formats upon request to the extent practicable in a language families understand.
- E. After consulting with families concerning the Consolidated Application, submit to the State Department of Education any comments from families of participating children that feel portions of the plan are not satisfactory.
- F. Inform families and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center.

II. Implementation of District Wide Parental Involvement Policy

- A. Involve the families in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan through meaningful discussion at yearly family meetings and the annual Family Advisory Council meeting.
- B. Involve families in the process of school review and improvement through an annual spring meeting of the Consolidated Application Review Committee, individual parent teacher conferences throughout the year, reports to the School Board, information articles in the school newsletters, and postings on the school website.
- C. Provide necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Frederick Elementary School (Title I, Part A) in planning and implementing effective family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by providing funds, location, staffing and scheduling options.
- D. Coordinate and integrate family involvement strategies in Part A with family involvement strategies with Head Start, by annually initiating a line of communication between the other agencies following the District's written transition plan.

- E. Conduct, with the involvement of families, 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 families in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to families 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 policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, with the involvement of families. An annual meeting will be conducted by the Title I staff and District administration to evaluate the effectiveness of the District Family Involvement Policy. The Families' Advisory Council members, School Board and other interested patrons will work with school staff to review current policy practices and reduce any barriers to greater participation to Frederick Elementary families. Annual reports to the School Board will occur and published in the official school newspaper and on school website.
- F. Build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of families and to support a partnership among the school involved, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:
1. The school district will provide assistance to families of children served by the school district or school in understanding topics such as academic content standards; 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. Families will be notified of any information concerning family workshops, conferences, or any materials that may ensure success through fliers, Thursday folder announcements and newsletter articles. Conversations with families and presentations concerning students' academic achievement will occur by school staff as needed.
 2. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help families 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 sending home materials with students, parent/teacher conversations of effective strategies and inclusion of any possible workshops offered to community members.
 3. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to implement and coordinate family programs and build ties between families and schools, by sending staff to available workshops that would address family involvement.

4. The school district will, to the extent economically feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as family resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children, by implementation of the District Transition Plan and initiate, at a minimum, annual investigations of such programs.
5. 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 families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand by reducing the educational jargon of school related information and in an understandable language for the families.

III. Adoption

This District Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, families of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by inclusion in the Frederick Area School Board minutes, as part of the agendas of family night and the Title Consolidated Application Review Committee. This policy is reviewed annually.