

Harrisonburg City Public Schools District Wide Parental Involvement Policy 2016-2017

PART I - GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Harrisonburg City Public 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 LEA 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 the LEA 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 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.

PART II - DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Harrisonburg City Public School District will involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan:

- Present the proposed Parent Involvement Plan developed and approved by the Community Advisory Councils in each Title I school at the Annual Fall Title I Parent Meeting
- Make copies of the plan available to all parents
- Revise the plan as needed each fall based on the spring evaluation

2. The Harrisonburg City Public School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement :

- Title I Schoolwide Planning Teams at each elementary school will include a member of the Community Advisory Council. This group will be responsible for reviewing school data; (i.e. SOL's, Benchmark Assessments, PALS data) and writing the school wide Title I Plan based on the academic needs of the school.

3. The Harrisonburg City Public School District will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities:

- The Home School Liaison may be a member of the school's correlate team. The liaison is responsible for coordinating parent involvement activities such as multi-cultural nights and other literacy events designed to educate and involve parents.

4. The Harrisonburg City Public School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with the following other programs: Head Start, Virginia Preschool programs, and the Office of Children and Youth by:

- Collaborating and planning with each of the governing institutions throughout the year
- Providing both local and federal funds to help with joint projects
- Providing physical space and personnel for joint programs

5. The Harrisonburg City Public School District will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy and to

revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policy and activities:

- A Title I Parent Survey will be sent to all parents in the spring to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy and activities.
- The survey will be developed by the Home School Liaisons and/or school Title I Coordinator with input from each school's Schoolwide Title I Planning Team which will include a member of the school's CAC committee.
- Surveys will be distributed both in paper and digital format to all students of Title 1 schools. Results will be tallied by the Home School Liaison and/or school Title I Coordinator.
- Survey results will be reviewed by each school's CAC members and revisions will be made based on their recommendations.
- The District Parent Involvement Policy for the upcoming school year will include revisions/suggestions from the spring evaluation and be shared with each school's parent population at the spring Annual Title I Parent Meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL BUILD CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Harrisonburg City Public School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement:

A. The school district will provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the following:

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

Harrisonburg City Public School District is committed to empowering parents to fully participate in their children's education by ensuring that parents be informed of the high academic expectations for students by the state of Virginia as well as division expectations.

SOL results and the school's accreditation status are shared with parents through individual conferences, in writing and through school and division websites. Local newspapers and media keep the community informed as to the district's academic successes and areas in need of improvement. Workshops, classes, and programs (described in items below) are provided at the district level, in individual schools, and in the community to provide opportunities for parents to be informed and involved in their children's education.

B. 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 by:

- Offering parent education classes at specified elementary schools.

- Making home visits to provide parents with materials and suggestions for supporting the classroom curriculum
- Hosting school literacy and multi-cultural nights designed to inform and engage parents
- Providing parent newsletters which include timely articles on parent teacher conferences, report cards, children's literature, effective parenting, appropriate discipline, and summer workshop opportunities
- Hosting Information Nights for state and local testing
- Providing transportation as needed for parent teacher conferences and educational nights.

C. 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 implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Holding Community Advisory Councils meetings at the school and district level to help plan and promote the school's annual calendar of events
- Offering staff workshops and book studies relevant to the school's cultural climate
- Encouraging involvement from all parents by offering programs to meet different work schedules; i.e., morning coffees, evening programs, flexible conference hours, etc.

D. 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 by:

- Hosting orientation sessions for parents of children entering Kindergarten from Head Start, VPI, and public pre-school programs
- Meeting with public and private day-care providers to share academic expectations for kindergarteners
- Distributing information to parents new to our district on division expectations for parent involvement
- Registering and assessing LEP students at our Welcome Center or each home school.

E. The school district will ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by:

- Employing Home School Liaisons in all schools as interpreters and translators for children and parents
- Providing important parent documents;(i.e. report cards, Title I Parent/ Student/ School Compacts, Title I Parent Involvement Policy, program informational letters, fliers for literacy events) in English, Spanish, Russian, Kurdish, and Arabic, as needed.
- Publicizing the parent education programs in English, Spanish, Russian, Kurdish, and Arabic, as needed.

- Forming partnerships between the Home School Liaison and school Title I Coordinator and classroom teachers to make home visits for non-English speaking parents

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PART III - ADOPTION

The school district will make this policy available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children during the 2016-2017 school year.

Jeremy Weaver, Title I Coordinator

January 2, 2017

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