

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education of the Minidoka County Joint School District No. 331 (MCSD) to build a partnership of shared responsibilities with students and their families to achieve the District goals of increased student learning and development, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

General Expectations

The MCSD agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The MCSD will put into operations programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with the Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the ESEA. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the MCSD 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 schools.
- The notice shall include information about complaint procedures regarding Title 1 parental participation programs, and shall inform parents of their right to request information about the professional qualifications of both the teachers and the paraprofessionals who teach and work with their children. To the extent practicable, each parent should receive the policy in a language they can understand.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that all of its 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.

Description of Implementation

1. The MCSD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual review of this policy; and
 - Use the findings of the annual review to improve the parental involvement programs and, if necessary, revise policies and procedures relating to parent involvement.
2. The MCSD will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:
 - Ensure that parents are involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the school improvement or the school wide programs;
 - Meet monthly with the district’s **Parent** Patron Advisory Team to discuss school and district needs for improvement and coordinate activities
 - Ensure school parental involvement plans are reviewed annually and revised, as necessary, with the school’s parents
 - Conduct an annual evaluation of school and district-wide programs
 - Use the findings of the annual review to work collaboratively with parents to improve school and district-wide programs

3. The MCSD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Ensure that not less than 1% of Title I, Part A funds are reserved to support schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance, of which not less than 95% will be distributed to schools
 - Communicate to parents information which affects them and their children, including student achievement, curriculum, assessment and staff;
 - Provide opportunities for participation of parents, including parents who are economically disadvantaged; are disabled; have limited English proficiency, are migratory, have limited literacy; or are of any racial or ethnic minority background;
 - Ensure that technical assistance, and other support necessary for effective parental involvement programs is available to all District schools;
4. The MCSD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement programs, activities, and strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Reading First, the Special Education Program, Migrant Education Program, the LEP Program, **Homeless Program** and the Minidoka Preschool Program, by:
 - Ensuring that, to the extent practicable, district-wide parent involvement activities involve the parents of the above-listed programs;
 - Ensuring that, to the extent practicable, school parent involvement activities integrate and coordinate with the parent involvement strategies of the above-listed programs
5. The MCSD 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 schools. 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, are migratory, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the annual review to improve the parental involvement programs and, if necessary, to revise (with the involvement of parents) policies and procedures relating to parent involvement.
 - The district **PPAT** will conduct an annual evaluation of the district parent involvement policy in improving its schools. **If the school-wide program developed is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, any**

parent comments on the plan shall be submitted to the District when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

- To eliminate barriers to participation, the survey will be distributed by the school, placed in the local newspaper and posted on the district website; it will also be provided in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
 - The school district will use the findings of the annual review to improve parental involvement programs and, if necessary, to revise (with the involvement of parents) policies and procedures relating to parent involvement.
 - Parents with disabilities shall be provided with an opportunity to request the auxiliary aids and services of their choice. Such support shall be provided by the school unless it demonstrates that another effective means of communication exists, or that use of the means chosen by the parent would result in a fundamental alteration in the service, program, or activity or in an undue financial and administrative burden. Outreach efforts shall include outreach to parents of limited English proficient students to inform them of how the parents can be involved in the education of their children, and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects, and meet the challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic content standards expected of all students.
6. The MCSD will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- (A) The school district will, with assistance of its schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, 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 alternative assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators:

The forums used to build parent understanding of the above-listed topics will include: School- or district-wide Back to School events; Reading & Math Nights; Cultural Awareness events; Parent classes; Patron Advisory meetings; building-level parent organizations; and parent notifications

(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, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- *Distributing informational materials to parents through a variety of media that includes: take-home packets, building and district-sponsored events, articles in the local newspaper, phone calls, and posting on the district website*
- *Utilizing school- or district-wide Back to School events, Reading & Math Nights, Cultural Awareness events, Parent classes, and **Parent** Patron Advisory meetings, to train parents*

(C) The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil service 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:

- *Facilitating the positive communications between schools and parents through monthly communication with the **Parent** Patron Advisory Team and building administrators*
- *Providing annual training to teachers, pupil service personnel, principals and other staff on how to work effectively with parents*

(D) The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, the Special Education Program, Migrant Education Program, LEP Program, **Homeless Program**, Minidoka Preschool Program, and other programs and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- *Convening an annual meeting to explain Title I requirements;*
- *Holding regularly scheduled meetings at flexible meeting times;*
- *Jointly developing school-parent compacts with parents that outline how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement;*

- *Involving parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of programs, including the school wide program plan and the school and district parental involvement policies;*
- *Communicating with families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand; and*
- *Providing to parents of participating children timely information about programs and State academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, including alternative assessments, the requirements of Part A, how to monitor their child’s progress, and how to work with educators.*

(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:

- *Distribute informational materials to parents regarding programs, meetings and activities through a variety of media that includes: take-home packets, building and district-sponsored events, articles in the local newspaper, phone calls, and posting on the district website*
- *Make available an interpreter to non-English speaking parents*



LEGAL REFERENCE:

ADOPTED: March 15, 2004

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Refer to: 1002.00P