

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 I 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~~

District Policy Development

The District may receive Title I funds only if it conducts outreach consistent with federal law to all parents and family members and implements programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs assisted under Title I. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented following meaningful consultation with the parents of participating children.

The District shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. The policy will establish the District's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and specifically describe how the District will:

1. **Demonstrate Joint Development of Engagement Plan:** The District shall involve parents and family members in jointly developing the District's Plan; and
2. **Coordinate Assistance and Support:** The District shall provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the District in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education; and
3. **Coordinate with Other Programs:** The District shall coordinate and integrate its parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with the District's other relevant federal, state, and local programs; and
4. **Conduct Annual Program Evaluation:** The District shall conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of its parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all its schools receiving Title I funds, including identification of:
 - A. The barriers to greater participation by parents in improvement plan activities (with particular attention paid to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
 - B. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - C. The strategies that will be implemented to support successful school and family interactions.
5. **Implement Evaluation Findings:** The District shall use the findings of the evaluation performed pursuant to Paragraph 4, above, to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the District's parent and family engagement policy described herein; and
6. **Establish a Parent Advisory Board:** The District shall involve parents in the activities of the schools receiving Title I funds, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the District to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the District for the purpose of developing, revising, and reviewing the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

School-Level Policy Development

Each Title I school shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of paragraphs 1 through 4 below. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. In the event a school has an existing parent and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members, that school may amend its policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of this policy. Similarly, if the District has an existing district-level parent and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members in all schools served by the District, it may amend that policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of this policy.

1. Parental Involvement: All District schools receiving Title I funds shall:

- A. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's programs, to explain the requirements of this policy, and the right of the parents to be involved; and
- B. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with reserved Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; and
- C. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the District's and school's available programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan, except that if a school has in place a process or procedure for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process or procedure, if such existing process or procedure already includes an adequate representation of parents of Title I qualifying children; and
- D. Provide parents of participating children:
 - I. Timely information about qualifying programs;
 - II. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
 - III. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- E. If the school-wide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school shall submit any and all parent comments on the plan to the District at the time the school first makes the plan available to the District.
- 2. School-Parent Compact to Achieve High Student Academic Achievement:** As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy developed under this policy, each school shall jointly develop with the parents of Title I children a school-parent compact that describes how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and identify the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging state academic standards. Such compact shall:
- A. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and
- B. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
- I. Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
- II. Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress;
- III. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
- IV. Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

District and School Level Development

- 1. Empowering Parents:** To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, both the District and each school within the District:
- A. Shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or District, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this policy, and how to

- monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; and
- B. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; and
- C. Shall educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of parental participation, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, to implement and coordinate parent programs, and to build ties between parents and the schools; and
- D. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement in programs and activities with other available federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their children; and
- E. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
- F. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; and
- G. May provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I funds in the event the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; and
- H. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; and
- I. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; and
- J. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; and
- K. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; and

- L. May establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; and
- M. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities;
- N. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request; and
- O. Shall inform parents and organizations of the existence of the program.

2. **Accessibility of Information for Parents:** In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this policy, the District and participating schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Cross Reference: 4160 Parents Right to Know Notices

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 6311 State Plans
20 U.S.C. § 6312 Local Education Agency Plans
20 U.S.C. § 6318 Parental Involvement



LEGAL REFERENCE:

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