



New York State Parental Information and Resource Center

Technical Assistance Guide

An Overview of Parental Involvement Policies

Parental Involvement

Parents play an important role in a child's education. Research shows that children are more successful when parents and schools work together.

To encourage parental involvement, No Child Left Behind requires Title I schools to have:

- A written school and district **parental involvement policy** explaining how schools will involve parents.
- A **school-parent compact** explaining how schools and parents will work together to help children be successful.

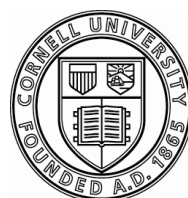
Effective parental involvement policies that are implemented well show parents that schools value them as partners, need their help, and want what is best for their children and families. Parents will better understand the vital role they can play and in turn, this will help students succeed in meeting academic standards.

What is required in a parental involvement policy?

A parental involvement policy must describe how the district will:

1. Involve parents in the development of its district wide parental involvement plan.
2. Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.
3. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parents in other programs such as Even Start, Head Start, and Parents as Teachers.
4. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy. The evaluation should determine whether there has been increased participation and whether there are barriers to greater participation, particularly by parents who are disabled, who have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district should use the evaluation to design strategies for school improvement and to revise parental involvement policies.
5. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement. Parents must have the tools they need in order to participate fully in decisions regarding their children's education.

The parental involvement policy should be widely distributed to parents and the school community.



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Components of a Parental Involvement Policy

List and explain actions/activities the school will take to fulfill the following:

1. Involve parents in the development of the school parental involvement plan.
2. Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.
3. Hold an annual Title I meeting and encourage parents to attend.
4. Provide parents information in a timely manner about Title I, the forms of academic assessment, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
5. Provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to participate in decisions about the education of their children and how the school will respond to any suggestions.
6. Provide each parent an individual student report about performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts, and reading.
7. Provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
8. Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as:
 - The state's academic content standards
 - The state's 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
 - How to work with educators
9. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.
10. Reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners including how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
11. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities.
12. Ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in an understandable format and in a language the parents can read.

Be sure to include a timeline and who is responsible.

Please visit http://nyspirc.org/pdf/school_parental_involvement.pdf for an example of a policy. Please remember that a Parent Involvement Policy should be specific to your school.

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