

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM

2415.04/page 1 of 6

Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

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2415.04 TITLE I – SCHOOL-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The school will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in the school 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 will work 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 will incorporate this School-Wide Parental Involvement Policy into its school's 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 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, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the school's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the New Jersey Department of Education.

In the event the school is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the school's Title I, Part A allocation, the school will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the school.

The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects the Title I school will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM

2415.04/page 2 of 6

Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving pupil academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring-

1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
3. 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; and
4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Below is a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below (Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA):

1. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. Send a survey to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to solicit input;
 - b. Convene a series of parent and community forums; and
 - c. Host monthly parent coffees/informal meetings.
2. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. Invite parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to sit on committees to review curriculum;
 - b. Convene parent information sessions where school data will be shared; and
 - c. Seek parent input via a parent survey.

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM

2415.04/page 3 of 6

Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

3. The school will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist the Title I, Part A school in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve pupil academic achievement and school performance:
 - a. Assistant Education Director will support staff in all activities and planning; and
 - b. Provide Professional Development opportunities for all staff.
4. The school 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 the Title I, Part A school. 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, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school 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 (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

(List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play):

- a. Assistant Education Director will create and distribute surveys for teachers' input;
- b. Survey for parents' input;
- c. Share results at staff meeting and parent meeting; and
- d. Parents will review results and have a voice in making changes as needed.

The school will build the school's 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 pupil academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM

2415.04/page 4 of 6

Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

1. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A school, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:
 - New Jersey’s academic content standards;
 - New Jersey’s pupil academic achievement standards;
 - The New Jersey 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.

(List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success.)

 - a. Bring speakers in to address topics above;
 - b. Through parent/teacher conferences, identify areas needing clarification; and
 - c. Provide training sessions for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) related to Title I programs.
2. The school will, with the assistance of the school, 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:
 - a. Providing workshops led by Title I teachers;
 - b. Providing space for parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to work with children after school; and
 - c. Providing technical training for parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM

2415.04/page 5 of 6

Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

3. The school will, with the assistance of the school and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, the Assistant Education Director 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 the school, by:
 - a. Partnering with State Title I office; and
 - b. Attending training offered by the State.
4. The school 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:
 - a. Provide translators for conferences and school-wide events; and
 - b. Translate all materials for parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY ACTIVITIES

The additional information outlined below lists and describes discretionary activities the school, in consultation with its parents, may undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;

Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;

Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;

POLICY

GREATER BRUNSWICK CHARTER SCHOOL

PROGRAM
2415.04/page 6 of 6
Title I – School-Wide Parental Involvement

Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;

Establishing a school-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;

Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

ADOPTION

This School-Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This Policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand, at the beginning of each school year or when the child is determined eligible and begins participating in Title I, Part A programs.

United States Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance – Appendix D - School-Wide Parental Involvement Policy