

Title I Parental Involvement Policy

Bismarck Public Schools

PART I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

Each school district must establish the district's expectations for parental involvement. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]

The **Bismarck Public School District** 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 programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the district plan for Title I 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 Department of Public Instruction.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I 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. (Only applicable for districts with Title I allocations greater than \$500,000.)
- 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.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in North Dakota (i.e., PIRC in Minot, ND).

PART II. DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. The **Bismarck Public School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan:
 - *A Parent Advisory Council will be formed and will meet biannually to review district parental involvement policy and budget*
 - *Provide annual parent meetings for parents in the fall*
 - *Distribute Title I District Parental Involvement Policy annually*

2. The **Bismarck Public School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators will actively support staff and parents to promote efforts that increase the level and quality of parent involvement*
 - *Build awareness of Neighbors Network opportunities with Title I parents*
 - *Neighbors Network will provide in home support to parents if needed*
 - *Ensure that the Title I budget provides funds for parent involvement activities*
 - *Coordinate parental access to student achievement data through Powerschool, Powergrade, and parent-teacher conferences*
 - *Provide opportunity for Title I staff and/or parents to attend parent involvement activities*

3. The **Bismarck Public School District** will build the schools' and parents' 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 the assistance of its Title I 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 as described below:
 - *Distribute school district AYP report annually*
 - *Provide parents biannually with an explanation of student achievement data from district assessments (ex. DIBELS, MAP, and NDSA)*
 - *Provide monthly "Friday Fliers" newsletters to keep families informed about school and community events.*
 - *Making ND PIRC (Parent Information Resource Center) brochures available to each school*

- *Inform parents that the state content standards and achievement standards are on the DPI website-<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/index.shtm> , which is also listed on Bismarck Public Schools Title I brochure. Brochures are offered to parents at the beginning of services*
- *Title I teachers/coordinators attend the state Title I conference each year to disseminate the most updated Title I information to schools and parents*
- *Title I authorized representatives, coordinator, and parents may attend the National Title I conference for current Title I news*

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I 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:

- *Providing parents with strategies for working with children at home i.e. "Reading Connection" and "Middle Years"*
- *Accessing Powerschool, email communication*
- *Inviting parents to annual parent meeting*
- *Providing parents a link on BPS website a list of recommended books for children*
- *Providing access to print: i.e. Earn-a-Book program and newsletters*
- *Parent centers are available to parents in each school to offer parent resources*
- *Schedule speakers/consultants/authors for families and/or staff to foster parental involvement*
- *Survey parents annually about specific needs and program improvements*

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services 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

- *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators will actively participate on each school's PIRC planning committee*
- *Distribute Title I handouts from DPI for principals and teachers*
- *Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators will collaborate with district reading/math coordinators on increasing parent involvement*
- *Collaborate with specialists in response to interventions at block planning at individual school levels*
- *Partner with BPS Community Relations Department to communicate with parents and staff on events, workshops, and etc that will take place*

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with BECEP, Head Start, Even Start, Jumpstart, Summer reading and conduct other activities, conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by

- *Coordinating transfer of information at Principals meetings*
- *Collaborate with BECEP on hosting parent workshops and providing smooth transitions into Kindergarten*

- *Coordinate with BECEP in informing parents about Kindergarten Round up and Jumptart activities being held in the elementary schools*

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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:

- *Offering parent-friendly newsletters*
- *Reviewing Title I information at least yearly for content and readability with Title I parent advisory committee and district Title I staff*
- *Spring survey results are provided to all Title I parents*
- *Providing translations if necessary, ex. ADA disclaimer on all Title I distributed material*
- *Directing parents to the Title I link on the Bismarck Public Schools website*
- *District will mail AYP letter, dispute resolution and plant profile information to all parents in a readable format*
- *A glossary of terms related to Title I services and assessments will be made available to parents.*

4. The **Bismarck Public School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: BECEP, Head Start, Even Start, by

- *Title I parent involvement coordinators and BECEP parent involvement coordinator will collaborate quarterly to provide a smooth transition for children from preschool to elementary school*
- *Monthly district leadership team meetings occur to support the transferring of parent involvement information across the district*

5. The **Bismarck Public School District** 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 Title I 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, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district 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.

- *Annually review the district parent involvement policy with the district Title I parent advisory council (PAC)*
- *Communicate TI PAC recommendations to local school buildings through each parent involvement coordinator*
- *Based on recommendations from the PAC, Title I schools will make revisions as necessary*

6. The **Bismarck Public School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

- *District principals report school improvement goals and objectives to parents on district website*
- *Schoolwide Title I planning teams will involve parents*
- *Parent and teacher surveys are reviewed annually and changes are made accordingly*

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The District Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- *Parent engagement coordinator have been hired with Title I part A funds to coordinate all Title I parent events*
- *Provide necessary literacy or math training at every Title I parent event*
- *Utilize Title I funding for childcare related costs to support parent involvement activities*
- *Establish a parent advisory council to provide input on parent involvement district policy*
- *Engage parents in a variety of involvement opportunities such as volunteering, parenting, communicating, collaborating with community, learning at home, and decision making*

PART IV. ADOPTION

This District Parental Involvement Policy has been developed and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by the Parent Advisory Council meeting held on October 6, 2009. The meeting agenda and minutes are available upon request.

This policy was originally adopted by the **Bismarck Public School District** on **December 12, 2005**. It is revised annually and recently updated on October 16, 2009. This policy will be in effect for the **2009-2010** school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before December 2009.

Fran Rodenburg
(Title I Authorized Representative)

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