

# East Orange School District

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY NCLB – NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND LAW- P-6171.3

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The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects Title I schools in the district 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 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 learning;
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.

Pursuant to federal law, the district and the parents of students participating in the No Child Left Behind educational programs as mandated under section 1118 (E) of ESEA have jointly developed the following parent involvement policy. This policy shall be implemented by the Superintendent or his designee according to the timeline set forth in the policy and incorporated into the District's Title I plan.

### I.

The district shall provide coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to assist participating schools in building the capacity for strong parent involvement in order to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

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

This coordination, assistance, and support shall include:

- a. Providing a parent district liaison to help in facilitating, coordinating, and implementing the Initiatives of the District wide Parent Advisory Council (DPAC);
- b. The establishment of a District wide Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) to provide advice on matters relating to parental involvement as well as matters related to student achievement;
- c. A Parent Advisory Council that will meet in order to provide recommendations to the Superintendent or his/her designee (to whom and the mechanism for accountability for given) On all matters related to parental involvement in activities supported under the No Child Left Behind program;
- d. Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as as parents may request.
- e. The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other state and federally-funded education programs. Additional activities such as establishing a parent resource center that encourages and supports parents in participating in the education of their children shall be explored.

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**II.**

The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- a. District review of and assistance in researching, selecting, and adopting model approaches to improving parent involvement at the district level.
- b. Provide parents with a description of the district's plan to fulfill its responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students to meet district's academic standards.
- c. The district shall coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law.
- d. The District shall collaborate with parents regarding strategies for supporting student learning.
- e. The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of the **No Child Left Behind Act**, how to monitor students' academic progress and how to work with school staff to help parents work with students to improve student

**III.**

The district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve pupil academic achievement and school performance:

- a. Encourage schools to arrange 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 those conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education.
- b. Training support for teachers on strategies for communicating and working with parents.
- c. Training support for parents on strategies for communicating and working with teachers.
- d. Technical support on development of communication strategies for parents.
- e. Technical assistance and guidance to schools for the purpose of facilitating parent involvement.
- f. District review of and assistance in researching, selecting, and adopting model approaches to improving parent involvement at the district level.

**IV.**

The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental strategies under the following:

- a. Provide parents with a description of the district's plan to fulfill its responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students to meet district's academic standards.
- b. The district shall coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized activities.
- c. The District shall collaborate with parents regarding strategies for supporting student learning.
- d. The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the

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- e. state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of the **No Child Left Behind Act**, how to monitor students' academic progress and how to work with school staff to help parents work with students to improve student achievement.
- f. Parents will be provided with access to the state content and achievement standards for each appropriate grade level. In addition, parents will be provided with information related to the state and local assessments and how academic progress will be reported.
- g. The District shall develop materials and training to help parents work with students to improve achievement. Training, including strategies to improve reading skills, math skills, science instruction and the use of technology may be provided for parents. Providing parents with the materials and training they need to be able to help their child (ren) achieve may also include: establishing parent academic workshops at the beginning of each semester to inform parents to what their child (ren) will be learning for that semester; developing monthly school calendars which include meeting dates, special functions and activities.
- h. The district will maintain a method of communicating with parents and ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities shall be sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- i. Each school shall include strategies that encourage parent involvement in its annual school improvement plan. The district shall provide schools with research, technical assistance and guidance on adopting effective models for encouraging parent involvement. The improvement plans shall address the following:

#### **School Parent Compact**

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of students served in the program a School-Parent Compact outlining, the manner in which parents, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:

- (a) Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards.
- (b) Indicate the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.
- (c) Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.

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#### V.

The school district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent Involvement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation of 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.

- a. Communicating
  - School-wide written communications
  - Teacher to parent personal communications
  - Frequency of communications
  - Progress reporting
- b. Parenting
  - Motivating students to learn
  - Providing an environment where homework can be accomplished
- c. Student learning
  - Informing parents of strategies to assist their students (homework, etc.)
  - Informing parents of additional learning opportunities and services
- d. School decision making and advocacy (School Leadership Council)
  - Parent participation in decision making
- e. Collaborating with the community

The district shall hold an annual meeting for parents of students in Title I programs, as well as school-wide program staff, principals of schools receiving No Child Left Behind funds and other interested persons to discuss the Title I program plan, review implementation of the Title I program plan, discuss how Title I and other funds allotted for parent involvement activities shall be used, and invite suggestions for improvement.

- j. District will collaborate with established DPAC Leadership to plan parent professional development and the budget for parent involvement activities for the upcoming year at the district level.
- k. The district, with the assistance of parents, shall implement district professional development activities which enhance the skills of teachers, pupil services personnel, and principals.
- l. The district shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Effectiveness shall be measured in part by improvements in student academic achievement and in school performance.
- m. The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this policy.
- n. The district shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request and the District can financially afford.

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**DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT \-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY ACTIVITIES**

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. The format will be comprehensible and uniform including alternative formats upon request and to the extent practicable in a language parents understand.

As required through NCLB, the district will provide the following information on the students' classroom teachers:

- A. Whether the teacher(s) has met the State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas they are teaching.
- B. Whether the teacher(s) is teaching under any emergency or provisional status in which the State requirements have been waived.
- C. The undergraduate major of the teachers(s), the area of study, and any certificates for any graduate degrees earned.
- D. The qualification of any paraprofessional providing services to their child (ren).
- E. A timely notice if the student is assigned to a teacher who is not "highly qualified."

Under NCLB section 118(a) (3) (A), the district is required to reserve 1% of its funds for parental involvement activities (95% of these funds must be used at the school level and the remaining 5% may be used at the district level). These funds cannot be reallocated to other areas within Title I.

- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I Part A schools in decisions about how the (1%) of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools.
- 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. Those 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.

**Legal References:**

NJSA	18A:35-4.9	Pupil promotion and remediation; policies and procedures
NJSA	18A:59-1-3	Apportionment and distribution of federal funds; exceptions...
NJSA	NJAC 6:8-4.1	Review of mandated programs and services