

Ferndale Area School District

District-wide Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Ferndale Area 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, 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 district 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 (Local Education Agency) 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 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) *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 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 the state.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT- WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Ferndale Area School District 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:
 - At the first *Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)* meeting of the year the Parent Involvement Policy will be discussed with parents. At following meetings throughout the year suggestions and concerns from parents will be addressed.
 - At our annual Title I meeting, the Parent Involvement Policy will be addressed.
2. The Ferndale Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA.

- During Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings, parents will be informed of current academic activities within the buildings. Parents then can review, critique and make suggestions to the Title I program.
3. The Ferndale Area School 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 student academic achievement and school performance:
 - The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will assist and plan effective parental activities throughout the school year.
 - The ESEA Online Parent Survey also requests input from parents on pertinent parental activities.
 4. The Ferndale Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Transitional meetings between pre-school agencies (Head Start, etc.) and our district's primary guidance counselor
 5. The Ferndale Area 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, Part A 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.
 - A Parental Survey will be administered at the end of the year to all parents in Title I schoolwide building. The schoolwide team to determine effective parental programs will use results of the survey.
 6. The Ferndale Area School District 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 the assistance of its Title I, Part A 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 alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

The district's Title I schoolwide buildings will:

1. Provide to all parents at *the annual Title I meeting*, curriculum information with all academic content and PA Standards addressed.
2. Conduct Parent-Teacher conferences to address students' academic progress and local assessments individually with parents.
3. Present *PSSA Information* for all interested parents.
4. Provide to all parents the district's "*Parent Handbook*" to use as a resource.
5. Provide the district's website that contains pertinent parental information such as the district's report card.
6. Support an active and involved PTO.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its 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:

- Provide School-Home Student Compacts that addresses the role of each for academic success of each child.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT- WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMNT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Ferndale Area School District recognizes that a child's education is the responsibility shared by the school and the family and agrees that to effectively educate all students, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

We define parent and family involvement as an on-going process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child's first educator, promote clear two-way dialogue between home and school, and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This District-wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and PIRC committee review and discussions. This policy has also been reviewed during the State SPAC team district visit.