

Long Beach School District Parent Involvement Policy



Revised May, 2011

(IDDGA)

Long Beach School District

Parent Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Long Beach 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 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 out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

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

1. The Long Beach 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:

- ✓ The district will provide opportunities for parental input through the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) which meets regularly throughout the year. The PAC consists of one parent representative from every school in the district, the Superintendent, a School Board member and the Federal Programs Director. Recommended changes will be addressed by the Federal Programs Planning Committee in the spring of each year unless immediate attention is required.
- ✓ The district will provide information to parents through newsletters and the district website throughout the school year encouraging and inviting parents to get involved and stay involved.

2. The Long Beach School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- ✓ Parents will have the opportunity to provide input into the development of the LEA Title I Plan through the following:

- Annual Parent Meeting
- Mid-Year Planning and Effectiveness Meeting
- Parent Advisory Committee representative
- Annual Title I Parent Involvement Survey
- Title I Newsletter Survey
- District and School Planning Committees

These recommendations will be forwarded to the federal Program planning committees for consideration.

- ✓ Each school will provide parents of students participating in Title I Schools with a copy of the school's Parent Involvement Plan and the District Parent Involvement Policy at the beginning of the school year. Methods of dissemination may include any of the following: Handouts at Annual Parent Meeting, Planning and Effectiveness meetings, PTO meetings, District website, newsletter, student folders, student handbook or separate mailings.

3. The **Long Beach 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 under section 1118 (A)(2)(b):

- ✓ Each school will receive a Federal Programs Principal's Handbook at the beginning of the school year as a resource. This handbook will include, but is not limited to: NCLB section 1118, Parent Involvement requirements, District Parent Involvement Policy, School Parent Involvement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and Technical Assistance Handouts.
- ✓ Newsletters to parents will contain information from the District office encouraging parent input and explaining how parent input will improve the academic quality of schools funded under Title I at the beginning of the school year.
- ✓ Ensure, to the extent possible, that information schools send home to parents is in a language and format parents can understand.
- ✓ Ensure each school has developed jointly with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

4. The **Long Beach School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As

Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs], by:

- ✓ Visitation for all pre-school age children entering Kindergarten
- ✓ Curriculum Workshops and Lunch and Learn Meetings for parents, pre-school staff and parents, and child care providers regarding MDE Framework Objectives, available resources, and instructional strategies, stages of child development and related topics as determined by request.
- ✓ Kindergarten orientation programs at each school (Fall)
- ✓ The Family Connection page on the District Web Site containing parent information and links to quality web sites.
- ✓ Parent Resource Library

5. The **Long Beach 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.

- ✓ The district will provide schools with information to be shared with parents on, Parents' Rights to Know, Title I District Parent Involvement Policy, the school Parent Involvement Policies, and the school compacts.
- ✓ The evaluation instrument will be reviewed and revised as needed by the district Parent Advisory Council or the Federal Program Planning Committee.
- ✓ The Parent Involvement Policy will be evaluated annually as part of the planning process but may be revised at any time throughout the year as needed.
- ✓ Parents will be encouraged to complete the evaluation instrument.
- ✓ The school planning team chairman or principal's designee will be responsible for conducting this evaluation for district and school policies.

Capacity Building

1. The Long Beach 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, 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:
- ✓ Publishing and distributing the Bearcat Beat Newsletter to all parents in the district containing informational articles for building parent capacity for helping their children achieve and spotlights on "What's Happening" in the Title I classrooms throughout the year.
 - ✓ Publish the district NCLB Report Card
 - ✓ The Family Connection page on the District Web Site containing parent information and links to quality web sites.

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

- ✓ Parent newsletter, district web site, and other publications
- ✓ Accelerated Reader
- ✓ MDE practice test materials
- ✓ MDE Curriculum Standards
- ✓ Teacher Websites
- ✓ ConnectEd calling system
- ✓ Math, Literacy, and Science Nights

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 resources and assistance for school staff on how to communicate and work with parents at the beginning of the school year.
- ✓ Sharing Best Practices on effective parent involvement with school administrators at district administrator meetings.
- ✓ *ConnectEd* calling system will keep parents informed of meetings and events at school.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- ✓ Visitation for all pre-school age children entering Kindergarten
- ✓ Curriculum Workshops and Lunch and Learn Meetings for parents, pre-school staff and parents, and child care providers regarding MDE Framework Objectives, available resources, and instructional strategies, stages of child development and related topics as determined by request.
- ✓ Kindergarten orientation programs at each school (Fall)
- ✓ The Family Connection page on the District Web Site containing parent information and links to quality web sites.
- ✓ Parent Resource Library

E. The school district 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:

- ✓ The LEP population represents less than 1% of the district population which enables the district to utilize, in most cases, district employees and volunteers as translators.
- ✓ The district will employ Internet translation tools when necessary.
- ✓ ConnectEd calling system

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The District will employ the District Parent Advisory Committee and/or the Federal Program Planning Committee to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in the Title I, Part A programs.

