

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT

This District-level policy has been developed jointly with¹ the parents/guardians of students participating in the District's Title I programs. It provides an understanding of the shared responsibility of the District and parents/guardians in improving students' academic achievement and school performance. The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for distributing this policy to parents/guardians of students participating in the District Title I programs.

Because parent involvement is so important to a student's success in school, the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee encourages regular participation by parents/ guardians in all aspects of the District's Title I programs.

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. provides opportunities for parent/guardian involvement that are aligned with the requirements of Title I programs set forth in law as follows:

- A. The District involves parents/guardians in the joint development of the District's plan to help disadvantaged students meet challenging achievement and academic standards in the process of school review and improvement by:
 1. Establishing a District-level Parent Advisory Committee with parent-guardian representatives from each building;
 2. Establishing effective and ongoing two-way communications between the District, staff, and parents/guardians; (e.g. school/parent compact);
 3. Developing a District-wide communication with parents/ guardians which includes information about the District's Title I plan; and
 4. Training staff to work more effectively with families with diverse cultural background and/or barriers such as illiteracy or limited English proficiency.

- B. The District provides the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:
 1. Providing information to parents/guardians about the system and various instruments that will be developed or used to monitor student progress;
 2. Providing District-level assistance to individual schools in planning and implementing improvement activities;
 3. Holding training sessions for Parent Advisory Committee members so that there may be more effective liaisons between parents and schools; and

- C. The District builds the capacity of schools and parents/guardians for strong parental involvement by:
 4. Seeking input from parents/guardians in developing workshops that will help them become more effective partners with the schools in encouraging academic achievement.

¹ 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(2) requires local education agencies (LEAs) that receive Title I funds to "develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy." The policy is to be incorporated into the LEA's Title I plan. The mandated components of the policy are reflected in this document. The means by which these expectations will be met are to be arrived at through a process that features active parental participation. The numbered items suggest some of the ways the District can promote parent involvement. Other ways may be arrived at through the participatory process.

1. Engaging school Parent Advisory Council to seek out and involve parents/guardians through their communications and informational meetings;
 2. Promoting cooperation between the District and other agencies or school-community groups to furnish learning opportunities, increase awareness of support services and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development;
 3. Providing ongoing communication about opportunities to serve on the Parental Advisory Committee, volunteer in the schools and learn how to work more effectively with their children to extend and reinforce learning and foster achievement; and
 4. Collaborating with Maine Parent Information and Resource Center (Maine PIRC).
- D. The District coordinates and integrates parent/guardian involvement strategies for Title I programs with those of other programs (such as Child Development Services, Adult/Community Education and Wells Recreation Department) by:
1. Involving District and building representatives from other programs to assist in identifying specific population needs; and
 2. Sharing data between programs to assist in transitions to improve student academic achievement.
- E. The District conducts, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/ guardians in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The District will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent/guardian involvement, and revising, if necessary, the parent/guardian involvement policies described in this section by:
1. Evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent/guardian involvement policy through focus groups and informal meetings involving administrators, teachers and parents/guardians;
 2. Identifying and overcoming barriers to effective evaluation and input, e.g., scheduled meetings at mutually agreed upon times, providing childcare upon request, meeting in accessible places; and
 3. Identifying potential policy changes and program improvements.
- F. The District involves parents/guardians in the activities of the schools served under Title I by:
1. Keeping parents/guardians informed of the objectives of the District's Title I programs and state and local assessment systems;
 2. Providing information to parents/ guardians about how to help their children at home;
 3. Providing communication and calendar information to parents/guardians of meetings or events and encouraging their participation; and
 4. Promoting opportunities for parents as volunteers in the classroom and in school programs.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §6318

This policy replaces IGBCA – Chapter 1

Adopted by the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee: 04/05/06