

ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Section:	COMMUNITY	Policy No.:	923
Date Adopted:	September 29, 2003	Title:	Title I Parent and Family Engagement
Last Revision:	May 9, 2016		

Purpose

The Armstrong Board of School Directors recognizes that parent involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents and community.

Authority

In compliance with federal law, the District and parents of students participating in Title I programs shall jointly develop and agree upon a written parent involvement policy. When developing and implementing this policy, the District shall ensure the policy describes how the District will:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the District's overall Title I parent involvement plan and the process of school review and improvement.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Develop activities that promote the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement.
4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with appropriate programs, as provided by law.
5. Involve parents in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I.
6. Identify barriers to participation by parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority.

7. Use findings of annual evaluations to design strategies for more effective parent involvement.
8. Involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I.
9. Involve parents in the training of teachers, pupil services personnel and principals in areas related to:
 - The value and utility of parent contributions
 - How to reach out to and communicate with parents
 - How to work with parents as equal partners
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs

The Board shall adopt and distribute the parent involvement policy, which shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan and shall be evaluated annually, with parent involvement.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the District's Title I parent involvement policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law.

The building principal and/or Title I staff shall provide to parents of student participating in Title I programs:

1. Explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program.
2. Set of objectives to be addressed.
3. Description of the services to be provided.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and reports provided to parents are in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Guidelines and Expectations

An annual meeting of parents of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program, jointly develop a parent involvement policy, and review Title I parent complaint procedures. Parents shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the parent involvement program, including making spending decisions regarding the 1% of Title I Part A funds reserved for parent involvement. Parents are encouraged to work with Title I teachers in their child's school to assist in the spending plans. Parents shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, offer suggestions and ask questions regarding policies and programs.

In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent meetings and training opportunities shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents shall be provided:

- 1 Information about Title I programs and district and school level parent involvement activities, including the State Parent Advisory Council Conference.
- 2 Opportunities for training and information in areas related to literacy development (e.g. Raising Readers Book Club), how parents can assist at home in the education of their child, how to use technology to support learning, and parenting skills. Parents are invited to participate in the training of teachers, pupil services personnel and principals in areas related to:
 - The value and utility of parent contributions
 - How to reach out to and communicate with parents
 - How to work with parents as equal partners
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs
- 3 A description and explanation of academic content standards, the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- 4 Opportunities to submit parent comments about the program to the district level. Parents are encouraged to share ideas and recommendations to the district's Federal Programs Coordinator. This procedure will be shared with parents during each of the schools' Title I Parent Nights. The District will include parent comments to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) when filing their annual plan.

If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs.

Opportunities shall be provided for parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress and formulate suggestions, and participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. During the annual Title I program evaluation, parents of Title I students assess the effectiveness of the program and offer recommendations to enhance program effectiveness.

Review of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Title I parents representing all of Armstrong School District's schools meet annually to develop and agree upon a written District Title I Parent Involvement Policy and participate in an annual Title I evaluation. During the annual evaluation, parent feedback is gathered using surveys, face-to-face meetings, phone contacts, and district website communication. Results from this evaluation are used to make modifications, revisions, or enhancements to Title I parent involvement opportunities, policy, and programs.

Coordination with other Parent Involvement Activities

The District fosters partnerships with other agencies such as Head Start, ARIN, Even Start, and other preschool programs to promote and support parent involvement. District personnel meets regularly with Head Start parents through the Head Start Policy Council to share relevant information and gather feedback from parents to improve communication and district programs.

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 and Title I School Parent Involvement Policy outlining the manner in which parents, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents and reasonable access to staff.

NOTE: THIS POLICY IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY.