

# **WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

P. O. Box 428, School Street Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

### **Title I District Wide Parental Involvement Policy**

The Woodbridge Township School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements.

#### Part I. General Expectations

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the ESEA. These 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 parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement 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 if requested by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserve goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
  - Parent and family engagement 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; and
    - D. the carrying out 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
  - O The Early Childhood, Parenting and Professional Resource Center The focus of NJ Parent Link is to meet the information and resource needs of expectant parents, families with young children (newborns to children entering kindergarten) and professional stakeholders vested in the health & well-being of New Jersey's children & families. Parenting and support resources for families with older children, school aged to young adulthood, are also available. The goals of NJ Parent Link are to improve the accessibility, coordination and delivery of information and services to expectant parents and families with young children; to improve the communication capabilities between the public and private sectors; and to provide the IT foundation for interagency service collaborations and policy development.
    - State of New Jersey NJ Parent Link
    - Parent Link The Early Childhood, Parenting, and Professional Resource Center
    - Online access to resources NJ Parent Link
  - Center for Family Services The focus of the Center for Family Services is to provide caregivers with information and skills in order to strengthen parent/child relationships. Services include, but not limited to, counseling, workshops, and support groups.
    - 584 Benson Street, Camden, NJ or 601 S. Black Horse Pike, Williamstown, NJ
    - **877-922-2377**
    - Email: <u>access@centerffs.org</u>
  - o Family and Community Engagement
    - Barbara Pugh: <u>barbara.pugh@doe.nj.gov</u>

# Part II. Description of How District Will Implement Required District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

- 1. The Woodbridge Township 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:
  - Title I schools will review content and effectiveness of district policy with Title I parents at Title I Annual Parent Meetings
  - Document feedback from parents in meeting minutes
  - Changes made to policy based on parent feedback
- 2. The Woodbridge Township School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - Title I schools will review content and effectiveness of curricula and programs with Title I parents
  - Title I schools will afford the opportunity to meet with school personnel for the purposes of planning, consultation, advising, and evaluation and to ensure ongoing parental input toward achieving program objectives and developing a feeling of partnership
  - Each Title I school, working with the parents of its students, will develop a school-parent compact which outlines how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting higher student achievement. A copy of this compact will be provided to the parents of each Title I student.
- 3. The Woodbridge Township 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:
  - Supervisor of ASI will coordinate and implement District-Wide Title I Family Workshops (Language Arts, Math, STEAM)
  - Supervisor of ASI will be available for input and guidance in implementation of school family

- 4. The Woodbridge Township School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following:
  - Title I Family Workshops (Language Arts, Math, STEAM)
  - Individual school's family programs
  - The encouragement of activities which parents and children can do together at home
  - Resources will be shared with families to promote and foster learning in the home
- 5. The Woodbridge Township 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:
  - Title I schools will review content and effectiveness of district policy with Title I parents at Title I
    Annual Parent Meetings
  - Document feedback from parents in meeting minutes
  - Supervisor of ASI will make changes to policy based on parent feedback
- 6. The Woodbridge Township 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 challenging State academic standards,
    - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
    - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
    - how to monitor their child's progress, and
    - how to work with educators:
      - Parent workshops will focus on communication of topics mentioned above in relation to Language Arts, Math, and STEAM
      - Open line of communication with parents
      - Question and answer sessions
- 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 parent and family engagement, by offering:
  - Title I Family Workshops (Language Arts, Math, STEAM)
  - Individual school's family programs
  - Consistent communication between parents/guardians and the Academic Support Instruction teachers. In addition, parent conferences will be scheduled in December with both afternoon and evening conference times available. During the conference, portfolios containing samples of the student's work will be available for review.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals other school leaders, 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:
  - Providing Title I principals with resources and references
  - Supervisor of ASI and Title I principals attending professional development opportunities in the area of improving parental involvement
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head 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:
  - Providing literature via flyers/announcements for anything applicable
  - 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:
    - Information will be sent home via email and/or backpack
    - Information will be posted on school and/or district website(s)
    - Translation of information as needed
    - Provisions will be made, as far as practical, for the translation of program notices, progress reports, and other printed material related to the Title I program

## Part III. Discretionary District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

The District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy, in consultation with its parents, will build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, with the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting 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;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

### Part IV. Adoption

This District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Dr. Joseph Massimino.

This policy was adopted by the Woodbridge Township School District on October 20, 2022 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2022.

Signature of Authorized Official

October 20, 2022

Date