

Columbus Elementary School

Ms. Harriette Bass, Principal

School Wide Parental Involvement Policy

PART I.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

[NOTE: Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school's expectations for parental involvement. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]* There is no required format for those written expectations; however, this is a sample of what might be included.]

Columbus Elementary School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- ❖ The school 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 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 will incorporate this school 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 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 will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- ❖ The school 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 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 SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. **Columbus Elementary School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- ❖ Understand the importance of communication between the teacher and parents on an on-going bases through:
 1. Parent-teacher conferences twice-a-year
 2. Continuous reports to parents on children's progress
 3. Providing training materials for parents and guardians to help their children achieve their academic and social aptitude.
- ❖ Use the yearly Back to School Night in September of each school year to discuss Parental Involvement, Policies, and Parent Compacts.
- ❖ Give parents' opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's classroom, and observe their classroom activities.
- ❖ Have an established PTO as the driving force for parent participation, ideas, and concerns.

2. **Columbus Elementary School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- ❖ The schools responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive effective learning environment that enables children served under the Title 1, Part A to meet the State's academic achievements standards.

3. **Columbus Elementary School** 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:

- ❖ Our school will openly accept parents as partners in learning through formal and informal parental involvement activities.
- ❖ All staff members will be asked to support parental involvement activities
- ❖ Provide parents with information about programs, and give timely and detailed explanations of the curriculum taught at our school.
- ❖ Offer PTA meetings at flexible times, such as in the afternoon, or evening.
- ❖ Involve parents in the planning of all Title 1, programs and activities

4. **Columbus Elementary School** 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:

- ❖ I & RS meetings scheduled to help parents understand and improve student's lack of progress.

5. **Columbus Elementary School** 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 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.

- ❖ Parent Report Card, created by the Parent Liaison will be distributed during three PTO meetings. One in Oct, one in January, and the last in June.

1. **Columbus Elementary School** 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 will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
 - a. the State's academic content standards,
 - b. the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - c. the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - d. the requirements of Part A,
 - e. how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - f. how to work with educators:

B. The school 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:

- ❖ Providing all students with a student handbook.
- ❖ Hosting Parent Teacher conferences a few times a year, and a Bring Your Parent to School Day.
- ❖ Parent Liaison will give parents his phone extension and access to all information needed to solve any problems.

C. The school 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 is relayed to parents via the Parent Liaison, who then contacts parents on a daily basis.
- ❖ Information will be sent in English, Spanish, and Polish (when needed)
- ❖ Interacting with parents, through phone, email, face to face, parent teacher conferences, and Back to School Night

PART III. DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- ❖ involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- ❖ providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;

- ❖ paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement 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 parental involvement 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 parental involvement;
- ❖ establishing a school wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- ❖ developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- ❖ providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This School wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, and the Parent Liaison as evidenced by **Columbus Elementary School's 2011/2012 Title 1 Plan**

This policy was adopted by the **Columbus Elementary School** on **09/20/11** and will be in effect for the period of **September 2011 to June 2012**. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **September 21, 2011**.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)