

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

The Berlin Central School District ("District") hereby adopts programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in programs assisted with Title I funds. The District believes successful schools are based upon shared responsibility. Students are more likely to succeed when parents, administrators, teachers and community leaders all play important roles in supporting children's' learning.

This policy is intended to implement programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in programs receiving assistance under Title I. These programs, activities and procedures, including the further development of this parental involvement policy, shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation between parents of participating children, community leaders and District personnel, including teachers and administrators.

The District endorses the parental involvement goals of Title I, Part A, Section 1118 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 ("NCLB"). The District encourages the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspect of their child's education, including the development and implementation of District programs, activities and procedures designed to carry our the NCLB parental involvement goals.

The parents of participating children shall be involved in the ongoing development of this policy. This policy shall be distributed to parents of participating children. This policy shall also be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents, its schools and the District. If this policy is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the District shall submit any parent comments along with a copy of this policy to the New York State Education Department.

The District shall coordinate; provide technical assistance and any other support necessary to assist its participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to include student academic achievement and school performance.

The goal of the District is to build its Title I schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement so as to support a partnership to improve student academic achievement. In order to accomplish this goal, the District and its Title I schools will:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the State's academic content and student achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with District teachers and administrators and other professionals to improve the achievement of their children;

2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement such as literacy training and using technology as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
3. Educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of parent contributions and in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and their schools;
4. To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the 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, and encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
5. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The District and its schools may also consider other activities that further build the capacity of parents to become involved, to the extent those activities are feasible and appropriate. In accordance with the NCLB, these additional optional activities may include, for example: involvement of parents in the development of training for teachers, principals and other educators in order to improve the effectiveness of such training; provide necessary literacy training; pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities such as transportation and child care costs to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training sessions; train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers who work with participating children and parents who are unable to attend such conferences in school; adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; establish a District wide parent advisory council; develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and, such other reasonable support for parental involvement as parents may request.

The District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under the other programs such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers program and Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters and State run programs.

The District shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy for improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and revision of the parent involvement policy necessary for more effective parental involvement.

The overall goal of this policy is to involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I.

Additionally, the Board of Education directs each District school with a program served under Title I funds to jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written involvement policy. The policy must be agreed on by such parents and describe the means for carrying out NCLB parental involvement requirements set forth below:

Each district Title I school shall notify parents of the school parental involvement policy below.

#### School Level Policy

Each Title I school shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I programs and explain involvement rights of the parents;
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings including morning or evening. The school may provide, with funds available under Title I, transportation, child care or home visits as such services relate to parental involvement;
3. Involve parents, in an organized, on-going and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review and improvements of this school's involvement policy;
4. Provide parents of participating children with timely information about Title I programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency level students are expected to meet, and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Student Academic Achievement School – Parent Compact

Each school served under Title I shall, jointly with parents of all participating children, develop a school-parent compact which outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build an develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

Each such school – parent compact shall:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's academic achievement standards;
2. Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, home work completion and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extra-curricular time;
3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through:
  - a. At lease annual parent-teacher conferences at the elementary school level, including a discussion of how this School-Parent compact relates to an individual child's achievement;
  - b. Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and
  - c. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.

Title I, Part A, Section 1118  
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001