

# West Feliciana Parish District Parental Involvement Policy 2009 – 2010 School Year

## Background

Started in 1965, Title I is a federally funded program that supports educational and parent involvement opportunities for economically disadvantaged families.

In recent years, the program has become more coordinated and integrated into the entire educational program of each school. This "schoolwide" approach allows staff in schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families to redesign their entire educational program to serve all students. Schoolwide programs maximize the impact of Title I.

With this in mind, the Parental Involvement Policy document, though mandated by Title I, should be viewed as relevant to all parents and helpful in strengthening the school-home partnership.

## Statement of Purpose

A major goal of the West Feliciana Parish Title I program is to encourage greater involvement of parents in the education of their children in developing strong partnerships with teachers, principals, other staff, the community and their school.

Title I Guidelines for Parental Involvement, Section 1118 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, reads that a local educational agency (LEA) receives funds under this part only if such agency implements programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in programs assisted under this part. Such activities shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Each LEA that receives funds under this part shall develop jointly with, agree upon, and distribute to parents of participating children a written Parent Involvement Policy establishing the expectations for parent involvement and describing how the LEA will involve parents in the joint development of the plan.

The West Feliciana Parish School System is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. The child benefits if the school and home form a partnership promoting high expectations for our children. Parents are the children's first teachers. Parents' support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. The West Feliciana Parish School

District intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is a strong, school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed.

## **Part I. General Expectations**

The West Feliciana Parish School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district 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 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 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 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 when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district 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 district 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.*

The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

The Louisiana Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC), also known as Louisiana Promise, offers direct assistance to parents and members of communities in understanding the regulations and requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation. Louisiana's PIRC is located at 520 Olive Street, Suite C-4, Shreveport, LA 71104. The telephone is 318-429-6959. A PIRC satellite office will be opening in Baton Rouge in the near future.

## **Part II. Implementation of District Wide Parental Involvement**

1. The West Feliciana Parish School System 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:

A district-wide Parent Advisory Committee, along with principals, teachers, Title I staff and supervisors will develop the district (LEA) Parent Involvement Policy. The Parent Advisory Committee will be parents selected (or volunteers) in each Title I school. Special attention will be given to recruit parents of children in the Title I Schoolwide Program.

2. The West Feliciana Parish School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

State assessment data, school report cards, and DPS reports will be given to parents to help them understand the process so they have the information they need to help develop a district school improvement plan. Parents and parent representatives will be solicited at annual parent meetings and at the schools' open house where the Title I parental involvement program is discussed.

3. The West Feliciana Parish School System 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:

The Title I Director and Central Office staff will provide coordination, technical assistance and support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement. The Title I Director, School Social Worker, Head Start Director, Early Head Start Director, Family Service Center Director and the Special Education Director will jointly plan Parent Involvement activities that involve parenting, literacy, tutoring, and working effectively with school personnel, etc. Schools will use Parental Involvement allocations to develop other activities to assist parents in helping children academically.

4. The West Feliciana Parish School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

The Title I Director will share ideas on parenting, parent training, transition activities, and resources with Head Start, K-3, Special Education and community day care centers.

5. The West Feliciana Parish School System \_ 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.

Parents of children in schoolwide programs will be part of the development and revisions of the School Improvement Plan. Parishwide surveys evaluating parental involvement at the school level will be disseminated to each school. The Title I Director and Principals will be responsible for conducting the survey.

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Program. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing at the school and the district level and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of the annual review.

Parents will provide feedback to the District through their local school organization. This information will be used to revise the District Parental Involvement plan.

6. The West Feliciana Parish School System 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:

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 State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

7. 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 parental involvement, by:

Literacy training will be provided to parents during planned parent involvement activities and through instructional awareness activities provided at each Title school. The Title I Director will collaborate with the public library to help parents with technology and literacy training.

8. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals 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:

Each year, the school district will assess the needs of parents and their children in this parish, through a variety of measures - including surveys and questionnaires.

Workshops, training sessions and other programs will be available (some for parents, some for parents and children, some for parents, administrators and teachers) to match the expressed needs. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools, District Title I Office and through the local media. Parents may call the District Title I office of their local school office at any time to express an interest in a particular workshop or to make suggestions for a workshop. Parents will be provided the opportunity to participate in various educational programs.

9. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Reading First, 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:

The West Feliciana Parish School Board, with the assistance of parents, will involve teachers, pupil service personnel, principals and other staff through parishwide training programs, in the value and utility of contributions of parents. Parents will be notified of these training programs through local news media, parent/teacher organization notices, and parent volunteer activities at the school.

10. 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:

An annual meeting will be held at the convenience of parents (at the district level and at the school level). Parents will be notified of meetings by letters, fliers, newspapers, TV and radio announcements. Parents will be apprised of the National Education Goals, state student performance standards, state and local assessments, pupil progression plan and ways to help their children. Parents will be given the opportunity at this meeting to voice any concerns about the

information disseminated and have information explained in a manner that is understandable to everyone.

### **Part III. Discretionary District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components**

#### School-Parent Compact

Each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with parents of children participating in the program. These compacts will outline how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Parents on each school Title I Advisory Committee will be involved in designing these compacts.

Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a checklist of responsibilities that teachers, parents and students will have for helping students achieve the goals. The content of the compact will be discussed at the school meetings with the parent and child's teacher.

Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children, before signing it and having their children sign.

#### Types of Parent Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their children's education. The West Feliciana Parish School District values both at home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home, talking with them at family mealtime, providing an at home study period, monitoring the TV programs, and making sure homework assignments are complete are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership that will help all our children to succeed. For additional ways parents can become involved, parents should check with the child's classroom teacher, building level principal, or District Title I Parent Coordinator.

#### Staff-Parent Communication

Communication with parents will include newsletters distributed monthly. There will also be notices, fliers, progress reports and calendar of activities sent home with children.

Communications will be made through telephone calls, letters, parent-teacher conferences, and home visits as needed. Home Visits will be made by the Child

Welfare and Attendance Supervisor, School Social Worker, Superintendent, and any other personnel directly related to the educational growth and development of the child.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their child's teacher when they are not concerned about a problem, as well as when they are concerned about a problem. Teachers are encouraged to send notes and make telephone calls to parents when children are experiencing success, as well as when they are having difficulties. Parents may also call the school office or Social Worker about problems and concerns.

## Reservation

West Feliciana Parish School System will reserves a percentage of Title I funds, based on the set asides in the Federal Consolidated Grant, for Parental Involvement. Each Title I school will be allocated a percentage of these funds, based on the number of students enrolled in each school, for Parent Involvement. The remaining funds will be used for district-wide Parent Involvement activities.

Each school will involve parents in the development of their School Improvement Plan and will decide what Parent Involvement activities are appropriate for their particular school. District-wide parent involvement will include travel and registration for state and local parent conferences and meetings.

## Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted will do the following:

Parents will be assisted in understanding the State's academic content standards, accountability system, local academic assessment and their children's progress at each school's annual Open House program. Instructional awareness programs and parent conferences will be held throughout the year.

Literacy training will be provided to parents during planned parent involvement activities and through instructional awareness activities provided at each Title I school. The Title I Director will collaborate with the public library in the parish to place a computer at the library with selective software installed to help parents with technology and literacy training.

The West Feliciana Parish School Board, with the assistance of parents, will involve teachers, pupil service personnel, principals and other staff through parishwide training programs, in the value and utility of contributions of parents. Parents will be notified of these training programs through local news media, parent/teacher organization notices, and parent volunteer activities at the school.

#### Parents Right to Know

Parents will be provided timely notice when their child has been assigned or taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

### **Part IV. ADOPTION**

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by \_\_\_\_\_.

This policy was adopted by the West Feliciana Parish School System on \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)