

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE: Elgin Public Schools shall promote parent involvement as mandated by Title I, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and work as equal partners with parents in providing quality learning experiences for every student, every day, without exception.

Elgin Public Schools believe and acknowledge that parent involvement raises the academic achievement level of students. When parents take an active role in educating their children, parents become empowered, teacher morale improves, and communities grow stronger. Elgin Public School shall involve parents in the education of their children at all grade levels. The Superintendent shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Public Law 107-110, *No Child Left Behind Act* ; section 1118-Title I Parent Involvement establishes that to build capacity for parent involvement within schools, a district is to “develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written Parent Involvement Policy.”

Elgin Schools believes that empowering parents to insist on improvement and giving them options regarding their children’s education, helps the district realize its vision to provide a quality education for all students. As a result of this belief, Elgin Schools shall create an environment of supportive and collaborative parent involvement.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Elgin Public Schools 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 are 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 plan 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 ESEA.*

PART II. DISTRICT –WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Elgin Public Schools 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:
 - Parents will be invited to review the draft plan and to serve on committees when the plan needs to be revised and/or updated annually.
 - Parents will be encouraged to participate through information given in administrative newsletters, school website, and/or invitation to serve.

2. Elgin Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will receive school report cards annually.
 - School Report Card will be posted on the school's website.
 - Elgin Public Schools will publicize and disseminate the results of the local annual review.
 - Notice of Title I meetings will be published in administrative newsletters, posted on school's website, and distributed to students.

3. Elgin Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Elgin Public Schools shall provide materials and/or resources to help parents work with their children to improve achievement.
 - Materials will be available in our Parent Resource Center for parents to check out to assist them in helping their children build upon their math, reading, and language skills at home. These will include handouts pertaining to educational topics, as well as, schedules, policies, and other information.
 - Parent help information is posted on Elgin Public Schools' Website and is updated monthly (parents without computer access may receive newsletter upon parent request).

4. Elgin Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Pre-Kindergarten is part of the Elgin Public Schools. All parental involvement policies for Elgin Public Schools apply to Pre-Kindergarten as well.

5. Elgin Public Schools 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 school. The evaluation will include 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.

- Parent Survey will provide information and determine effectiveness of our parental involvement policy. Information will be reviewed and necessary changes will be made to increase involvement.
6. Elgin Public Schools 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 district will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such the following by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:
1. the state's academic content standards,
 2. the state's student academic achievement standards,
 3. the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 4. the requirements of Part A,
 5. how to monitor their child's progress, and
 6. how to work with educators:
 - Elgin Public Schools will provide information to parents informing about the state's academic content standards as well as student achievement standards.
 - Student's progress can be monitored by the school's website, reports cards, and teacher conferences.
- B. The school district may, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.
- Elgin Public Schools may provide parents with literacy resources.
 - Parents' use of the school website provides helpful strategies for student's success.
- C. 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:
- Elgin Public Schools will encourage parent participation.

- Professional Development activities will encourage close communication between teachers and parents as equal partners in the education process.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even State, 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:
- Elgin Public Schools will provide a support system for families and children through information dissemination and involvement with the local Head Start Agency.
 - Elgin Public Schools will offer guidance through the local Head Start Parent Group.
- 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:
- Elgin Public Schools will ensure information sent to parents will be in an understandable format.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Elgin Public Schools may implement the following:

- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- maximizing 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 district 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

PART IV. ADOPTION

The District Wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by the Elgin Public Schools on _____ and will be reviewed annually. The school district will make this policy available to all parents.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent Involvement Policy

