



Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Saraland Elementary School

Saraland City Schools

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Introduction

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent Involvement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.

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1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved.

Saraland Elementary School will inform parents of our school's participation in the Title 1 program and explain the Title 1 requirements through annual parent meetings. Parents will be notified of the meetings through notices sent home by the students, public postings on the school website, and Schoolcast. Each year a Statewide Parenting Day is held and facilitated by the counselor. Parents are provided with information about their child's school and ways to improve their parenting skills. Title 1 parenting funds will be used to purchase supplies for parent nights that will be conducted each semester to assist parents with reinforcing skills at home.

2. Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school.

(1) During the first few months that school is in session, Saraland Elementary holds its annual meeting for all parents of participating children. Parents are notified of the meeting through notices sent home with students, Schoolcast, and public posting on the school website. Topics to be discussed at this year's meetings are:

*ASSIST Continuous Improvement Plan

*An explanation of the school's curriculum and Alabama state standards

*Title 1 program, participation, its services, and parents rights

*An overview of the Parental Involvement section of the ASSIST Continuous Improvement Plan

*School Parent Compacts

*Partnership Conference Forms

(2) Saraland Elementary School believes in involving parents in all aspects of its Title 1 programs. Two parent representatives serve on the ACIP committee and were active participants in the development of the plan. In addition, all parents were given the opportunity to review and provide input before the plan was approved.

(3) Saraland Elementary School uses its parental involvement funds to purchase materials and supplies for parent nights, conducted each semester, to encourage parents to become involved and active participants in their child's education.

3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children.

Saraland Elementary School provides parent newsletters to keep parents abreast of factors impacting their child's education. At its annual

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parent Title 1 meeting, Saraland Elementary School will present information about its Title 1 programs, the curriculum, and forms of assessment used. Parents will become knowledgeable about the following subjects taught: reading, math, language, science, social studies, and physical education. They will also become knowledgeable about procedures for scheduling parent-teacher conferences, tracking their child's academic progress, using the iNOW home portal, and participating in decisions related to the education of their child. A paper copy of the SES Parental Involvement Plan and a digital link to the online document will be available for parents. Teachers will be available to provide additional information on the subjects they teach and how students are individually assessed. Fourth grade parents will participate in partnership conferences to understand their child's academic strengths and weaknesses from ACT ASPIRE data and develop a plan that ensures academic success.

4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated).

Saraland Elementary School revised its school-parent compact in June 2013. All parents are given a copy of the compact at the beginning of each school year. The compact is explained to parents, and they are asked to sign the compacts signifying their commitment to working in partnership with the school to ensure the success of their child. The compacts are discussed with teachers at faculty meetings and teachers are given the responsibility to explain the compacts to students and obtain student signatures. The school principal also signs the compact. Teachers keep a copy of the compact in their classrooms for use during parent-teacher and/or student-teacher conferences.

5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan.

The ACIP committee meets quarterly to review, evaluate, and revise its ASSIST Continuous Improvement Plan. There are two parent representatives on the committee who represent all the parents of the school. Parents are notified through newsletters that copies of the ACIP are available in the library, school office, and on the school's website. Parents are given the opportunity to address unsatisfactory components of the ACIP in writing to the school. All parent concerns will be forwarded along with the ACIP to central office.

6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. (Describe)

Saraland Elementary School will provide training for parents of participating children at its annual parent meeting held at the beginning of the year. At the meeting, parents will receive an overview of the state's academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and assessments. Parents will also receive an explanation of Title 1 services and information on the parents' rights to be involved in their child's education.

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6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)

Saraland Elementary School ACIP committee strives to ensure parent materials and trainings are closely aligned with the school's identified goals. During the school year, topics that address identified school goals will be covered with parents. Because the ACIP has identified both math and reading as a goal, the school will provide both math and literacy materials for families at parent meetings.

6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, 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 the school. (Describe)

Saraland Elementary will continue to work with its teachers through faculty meetings, grade-level meetings, and in-services to promote the importance of parental involvement and working with parents as partners in the education process. Teachers will send home bi-weekly progress reports to notify parents of their students' academic success.

6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.(Describe)

Saraland Elementary will continue to work with its teachers through faculty meetings, grade-level meetings, and in-services to promote the importance of parental involvement and working with parents as partners in the education process. Teachers will send home bi-weekly progress reports to notify parents of their students' academic success.

6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental

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involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall 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. (Describe)

At the present time, Saraland's EL population consists of ten students. Due to the size of the system, the ESL teacher is shared by all three schools in the system. She works diligently to provide support to EL families by providing pertinent information in the students' native languages and serves as a translator for parents during meetings with teachers and/or administrators.

6f. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)

Saraland Elementary works diligently with parents to meet their requests as related to their involvement with their children's education. For example, changes were made to the uniform adoption after the consideration of input provided by parents.

7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students; including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

Saraland Elementary School, to the extent possible, provides opportunities for the participation of all parents including those with limited English proficiency and/or other disabilities. At this time, Saraland has no migrant students. The school's ESL teacher assists with parent notifications to families with limited English proficiency. Saraland Elementary is a handicapped accessible building.