



LEA Parental Involvement Plan

Lauderdale County 2016-2017
(From *No Child Left Behind* Guidance)

NOTE: *In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy/plan that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (LEA parental involvement policy/plan). The policy/plan establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).*

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Lauderdale County 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 LEA parental involvement plan 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.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. The Lauderdale County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Involve parents in the development of the LEA Title I Plan. Parents are members of the system wide advisory council. Each school is represented by a parent on this council.
 - Evaluate the Title I program by administering an annual survey. This survey will be conducted in the spring of each year. Compiled information from the survey and other data is used to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Title I plan, including the parental involvement plan.
 - The schools will meet with their local parent committees twice yearly to determine needs and to discuss strengths/weaknesses of Title I program.
2. The Lauderdale County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will be trained on Title I requirements at the annual meeting.
 - Parents will be informed on how they can provide input to the local school and LEA Title I programs.
 - Advisory committees will be formed at each local school.
 - Parents will be a component of the ACIP team.
 - Parents will help evaluate effectiveness of Title I program.

3. The **Lauderdale County 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:
 - Provide resources for parenting such as books, literature, videos, etc.
 - Educate parents about school and community based organizations where additional assistance may be obtained.
 - Coordinate necessary training on literacy, math, interpreting test results. Resources have been added to the website for parents and more will be added.
 - Supply materials and training to help parents interact with their children at home.

4. The **Lauderdale County School System** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other 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:
 - Distributing materials and/or providing programs concerning child development and child rearing. The programs and materials will describe the strategies which parents can utilize to assist in the development of their child. Information can also be found on the system's website.
 - Collaborating with department heads to ensure information is made available to all parties concerning parental involvement.
 - Continuing to be a member of Smart Start; an organization that helps coordinates resources for Head Start and other federal and state funded programs.

5. The **Lauderdale County 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 plan 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 plan 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.
 - Administer a parent needs and evaluation survey in the spring of each year. This survey allows parents the opportunity to provide input and rate the effectiveness of the Title I program.
 - Form advisory committees consisting of parents, teachers, and school leaders at each local school.
 - A parent representative from each school will comprise a portion of the LEA advisory committee.
 - Conduct an annual meeting for Title I explaining the requirements of the law and parents' rights.

The Lauderdale County School System will build the schools' and parents' 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, 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:
 - The Lauderdale County School System in coordination with school administration will conduct in service programs, focusing on state and local academic standards, state and local assessments and Title I requirements.

Additional activities to promote student achievement:

- Promote test taking strategies
- Promote importance of state and local assessments
- Encourage parents to attend title I meetings
- Encourage parents to attend conferences

B. 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:

- Providing materials to promote student achievement and how parents can contribute to this success.
- Sending home monthly newsletters that include literacy strategies
- Encouraging the use of the schools' websites and available links
- Providing a workshop for parents – topics will include how parents can help their children with reading strategies at home.
- Providing more technology workshops for parents – topics will include links available to students and parents, equipment available in schools, and social media.

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:

- Training all staff members on title I requirements concerning parental involvement.
- Training parents at the annual meeting.
- Including parents on ACIP teams at local schools.

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 Start, 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:

- Continuing to be a member of the Smart Start organization to coordinate resources/agencies.
- Promoting family literacy and parenting skills through parent resource centers and workshops.

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:

- Utilize the system's EL teacher for communication.
- Provide documents in the native language of parents.
- Recognize the challenges presented to an EL and family.

PART III APPROVAL

This LEA Parental Involvement plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the LEA Advisory Council meeting of May 12, 2016 and accompanying sign-in sheet.

This plan was approved by the Lauderdale County Board of Education on July 27, 2016 and will be in effect for the period of August 2016-May 2017. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2016.

Gina Baggett, Federal Programs Coordinator