

Paulsboro Schools District Wide NCLB Parental Involvement Policy



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 that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy 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 Paulsboro School District 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

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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;
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PAULSBORO DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Paulsboro School District 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:

- *Provide all parents of the students with a Parent Compact/Handbook. This Compact/handbook will explain the design of the program, eligibility procedures, specific contents of the student file, schedule of meetings, report cards and progress reports, procedures for volunteering, and/or observing his/her child's classroom.*
- *Have a minimum of 3 (three) district-wide Title I meetings where the district will provide programs to assist parents with understanding their children's academic program.*
- *Have all necessary Title I information available to parents at each school and on the district website.*
- *Work with district and community members in the sharing of information to parents and work to increase the number of parents who turn out for parent programs.*

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

Offer all parents the opportunity to participate in the district-wide Title I planning committee through shared information at back to school nights, community events such as "Paulsboro Day," newsletters and the district website.

3. The Paulsboro School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist all schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- *Allow all key school district personnel (administrators & teachers involved in the planning process) the dates and times of state-provided technical assistance workshops and agree to allow interested personnel to attend.*
- *Provide the time necessary to turn-key any information needed to staff members involved in the planning process.*
- *Provide all teachers access to all websites where key information is available.*

4. The Paulsboro School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under all other district programs' parental involvement policies.

5. The Paulsboro School District 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 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.
 - *District wide community surveys are conducted. When returned, all data is analyzed and disaggregated by school, presented to all stakeholders, including parents, students, teachers, administrators and board members. Upon review of these results, areas of improvement are identified and a plan to improve in these areas is prepared.*

6. The Paulsboro School District 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 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:

 - 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 parents with online access to their child's student work through COMPASS ODYSSEY. In addition, the district will provide parents with their own "parent component" of COMPASS ODYSSEY so they are able to understand the material their child will be completing in order to provide assistance to his/her child.*
 - *Provide online access to student records (attendance, grades, schedules etc.) to address issues the student may be having. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the GENESIS online program.*
 - *Provide parents with information, guest speakers and various activities at parent meetings to address their needs as suggested in the results of parent surveys conducted annually.*
- 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:
- *Work with the community to discuss the hiring of a parent involvement coordinator to be a community advocate working to share information with parents in order to increase the number of parents who turn out for parent programs.*
 - *Advertising to staff all professional development workshops that offer information on how to increase parental involvement*
- 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.
- 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.

**PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
POLICY COMPONENTS**

NOTE: The District wide Parental Involvement Policy includes additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, may choose to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize 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
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

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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 District Wide Title I Parent Advisory Committee Meetings held on April 4, 2014.

This policy was adopted by the Paulsboro School Board of Education on November 20, 2014 and will be in effect for the period of 1 year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents through district website, and at the District Wide Parent Advisory Committee Meetings. A hard copy will be sent home on or before October of the next calendar year.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)

* **Source:** Extract Appendix D: USDE Non regulatory Guidance on Parental Involvement