

Title: <b>PARENT INVOLVEMENT: ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING PARENTS' ACTIVE ROLE IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION</b>		Policy Number: <b>6014</b>
Section: Instruction		Last Revised: 12/2012
Date Board Approved:	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: 11/5/13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: 11/19/13

The White Pine County School District Board of Trustees recognizes that parent involvement is key to academic achievement. **The term parent refers to any caregiver/guardian who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children.** When parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children's school career. Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally all parents want what is best for their children. White Pine County schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, and administrators, shall develop and promote strategies that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families.

In order to enhance parental involvement, six essential elements for parent involvement shall also be promoted:

**(A)Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful:** Effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent, and parent-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child's strength, challenges, and accomplishments. To communicate effectively, both parties must be aware of and address issues such as cultural diversity, language differences, and special needs. Appropriate steps shall be taken to allow clear communication between participants.

**(B)Responsible Parenting is promoted and supported:** The family plays a key role in a child's educational environment. School personnel and program staff shall support positive parenting by respecting and affirming the strengths and skills needed by parents to fulfill their role. Parents shall be linked to programs and resources within the community that provide needed support services.

**(C)Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning:** Student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process. Schools shall therefore provide opportunities for parents to learn effective ways to support their child's educational needs including information about how parents can support student behaviors such as punctuality and regular attendance that are closely tied to student success in school.

**(D)Parents are welcomed as volunteers in schools:** Parent volunteers are essential for advancing student achievement. Therefore, parents shall be welcome and invited to volunteer at all educational levels. Volunteer opportunities shall capitalize on the expertise, interests, and skills of the parents, and have a direct connection to school and district goals.

**(E)Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect their children and families:** Parents and educators have a mutual responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to our students. Schools shall actively enlist parent participation in decision-making. Further, efforts shall be made to recruit and support participation by parents representing diverse student groups such as: limited English proficient, special needs, gifted and talented, and homeless. The role of parents in shared decision-making shall be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded at the district and school levels.

**(F)Parents, schools and community collaborate in order to enhance student learning, strengthen families, and improve schools:** Parents, educators and community members will work together in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. When schools and communities form partnerships, both make gains that outpace what either entity could accomplish on its own.

Providing all students with equal access to quality education is a primary goal. It is vital that all partners (parents, educator, businesses, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this goal. Developing cooperative efforts and providing access to resources will ensure improved academic achievement for all students, as well as quality schools.

## **I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The White Pine County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The WPCSD 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 WPCSD 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 WPCSD 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 WPCSD 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.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The White Pine County 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:
  - The WPCSD will appoint parent representatives to serve on the committee for the District Improvement Plan. WPCSD will work to provide a broad representation for the committee including parents of elementary, middle, high school, pre-kindergarten and special needs students.
2. The White Pine County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - The WPCSD encourages parent participation on all School Improvement Plan committees. WPCSD will provide, train and encourage parents to better understand the school review and improvement process so that parents are knowledgeable of the process and therefore make informed contributions to SIP committees.
3. The White Pine County School District 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 WPCSD and Title I Office will work with building principals and staff to provide professional development to Title I schools. Research-based programs and best practices will be shared with the schools. Support for implementation will be provided by WPCSD and Title I.
4. The White Pine County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as: Head Start and other preschool programs by:
  - The WPCSD provides the vehicle for coordinating and integrating programs and activities. Key staff from Head Start, CELL/ExLL Literacy and the State-operated preschool program are represented. Key staff collaborates to share strategies and integrate programs.
5. The White Pine County 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 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.
  - The WPCSD will collect school site data on parent involvement annually through comprehensive district-wide needs assessment. Data will be collected from parents, teachers and administrators. Individual reports will be provided to the schools and the Board of Trustees. The data will be provided to schools in time to guide program improvements in working towards more effective parental involvement for the next school year.
6. The White Pine County 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, 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 WPCSD uses the following research-based programs and best practices to build parents' capacity in understanding critical topics:
    - Professional Learning Communities workshop
    - Love and Logic Parenting Classes
    - Family Friendly Schools Training
    - Family Literacy Experiences
    - Family Math Nights
    - And other research-based programs as identified.
    - Parent/Teacher Resource Libraries
    - Response to Intervention (RTI)
- 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:
- The WPCSD uses the following research-based programs and best practices to build parents' capacity in understanding critical topics:
    - Professional Learning Communities workshop
    - Love and Logic Parenting Classes
    - Family Friendly Schools Training
    - Family Literacy Experiences
    - Family Math Nights
    - Parent/Teacher Resource Libraries
    - Response to Intervention (RTI)
- 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:
- The WPCSD and Title I Office will work to provide professional development on parent involvement to its administrators, teachers and support staff. The training will include information on how to positively use existing resources such as the Nevada State Educational Involvement Accord, parent groups and Professional Learning Communities.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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 WPCSD provides the vehicle for coordinating and integrating programs and activities. Key staff from Head Start, CELL/ExLL Literacy and the State-operated preschool program are represented. Key staff collaborates to share strategies and integrate programs.
- 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:

- The WPCSD uses a variety of media methods to communicate the availability of progress to parents. These methods include but are not limited to: student information data system, social media, direct mail to home, flyers sent from school, the District's website, parent/teacher conferences, individual school newsletters, a parent email list serve and collaboration with other related programs. The district provides communication in other languages, whenever possible.

### III. DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

The White Pine County School District, in consultation with its parents, chooses 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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### 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 documentation of outreach to Title I parents.

This policy was adopted by the White Pine County School District on 11/19/13 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 with a copy of the Nevada State Educational Involvement Accord on or before the start of each school year or when the student enrolls in school.



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(Signature of Authorized Official)

12/6/13

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(Date)

Legal References: NRS 392. Sections 1112 and 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)