

Title I Check-in for Charter Schools

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"Making Education Work for All Georgians"
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Parental Involvement and the Title I Process

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Parental Involvement & The Law

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)

Title I, Part A: IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

- **Sec. 1118** Parental involvement
- **Sec. 1112** Local educational agency plans
- **Sec. 1114** Schoolwide programs
- **Sec. 1115** Targeted assistant schools
- **Sec. 1116** Academic assessment and local educational agency and school improvement



Parental Involvement Defined

Parental involvement is defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, to include and ensure that----



Parental Involvement Defined

- (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;



Parental Involvement Defined

- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and to assist in the education of their child;
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118.

ESEA Section 9101(32)



Title I, Part A-- Parental Involvement Requirements

Schools served under Title I, Part A must involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including—



Title I, Part A– Parental Involvement Requirements

The planning, review, and improvement of the parental involvement activities, school parental involvement policy, school-parent compact, school improvement plan, schoolwide plans and the LEAs Comprehensive Improvement Plan (CLIP).



Title I, Part A-- Parental Involvement Requirements

A school may already have a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process so long as it includes all parents of eligible children participating in Title I, Part A programs.



Title I, Part A-- Parental Involvement Requirements

(2) WRITTEN POLICY.—Each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy. The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency's plan developed under section 1112, establish the agency's expectations for parent involvement, and describe how the agency will—



District Level Parental Involvement Policy

- Each school district must develop, jointly with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A services, a written LEA and school parental involvement policy that describes how the LEA and school will carry out the parental involvement requirements in section 1118(c) – (f), including the development of a school-parent compact.



District Level Parental Involvement Policy

If the district has one school level policy for all its schools its called a **district level policy**.

- However, a district level policy does not negate the district from having the required school level policy. SEC 1118 2(b)(1). There must be a district and school level parental involvement policy for each school.



District Level Parental Involvement Policy

This is not saying that an LEA does not have to have a school level parental involvement policy; but an LEA can **AMEND** a district level parental involvement policy to meet their school level parental involvement policy requirement. SEC 1118 (b)(3)



School Level

Parental Involvement Policy

- If the school already has a parental involvement policy that applies to all parents, the school may amend that existing policy; if necessary, to meet the requirements of section 1118(b).
- Schools must update these policies annually to meet the changing needs of parents and the school with the involvement of all parents who children participate in the Title I program.



Title I Parent Participation

- All parents of participating children in Title I schools must be given the opportunity to review the parent policy, school improvement plan, and other Title I programs and activities to provide input, comments, suggestions and/or ideas as it relates to improving student academic achievement and school performance.



Title I, Part A Parent Program and Parental Involvement Meeting

Each school served under Title I, Part A must convene an annual meeting, at a time convenient for parents to inform them of their school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, ***and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs.***



Title I, Part A Parent Program and Parental Involvement Meeting

In order to keep parents informed, schools must invite to this meeting ***all*** parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs and encourage them to attend. Schools must offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening so that as many parents as possible are able to attend.
[Section 1118(c)(1) and (2), ESEA.]



Title I, Part A Parent Program and Parental Involvement Meeting

- Schools served under Title I, Part A must provide to parents of participating children, in a timely manner, information about the programs funded by Title I, Part A. That information must include—
 - ✓ A description and explanation of the school's curriculum;



Title I Planning Process

- ✓ Information of student academic assessment used to measure student progress; and
- ✓ Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
- ✓ The right to request the qualifications of their child's teacher and paraprofessional —



Involving Parents In the Title I Planning Process

It is the responsibility of schools and LEAs to help parents understand topics that will help them become equal partners with educators in improving their children's academic achievement. Schools and LEAs must help parents understand such things as—

- ✓ The State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards;



Workshops and Conferences

- Parents should, whenever possible, attend local or regionally based training opportunities, when they are the same or similar as those being held out-of-state.
- Parents who receive this training should be prepared to share information or provide training to other Title I parents.
- Be sure all costs are reasonable and necessary, and in compliance with state and local law.



Spending PI Funds: Food

Everyone knows that serving food at activities, school programs or events is a helpful way to entice, as well as one of the strategies used to entice parents to Title I meetings and activities.

Parental involvement funds may be used to purchase food, but keep these guidelines in mind.



Spending PI Funds: Food

Funds may also be used to provide parents transportation childcare and food **(at a minimum)** at Title I meetings/programs.

Funds may not be used to pay parents to attend activities or meetings.



Food Items Defined

Food items are defined as **light snacks** that may be served during maybe served during meal times at parent meetings, parent workshops, parent trainings, parent events or activities at Targeted assistance (TA), and Schoolwide (SW) school programs.



Spending PI Funds: Transportation and Child Care

The law allows schools to use parent involvement funds to provide transportation and child care costs to enable parents to participate in school related meetings, training sessions, and facilitate parents' attendance at parental involvement activities and events.

ESEA Section 1118(c)(2)



Spending PI Funds: Family Literacy

Family literacy activities are specifically encouraged under the law. Target the events to help parents who lack a high school diploma, or who have low literacy levels, improve their own reading skills and learn to help their children learn to read.



Spending PI Funds: Technology Training

- **You may use Title I PI funds to provide training to parents so that they can:**
- Provide materials and trainings to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate to foster parental involvement.
 - Communicate with teachers.
 - Find and review school-related information online.
 - Access their children's grades.



Spending PI Funds

- Funds may be used to hire a full-or part-time parent liaison.
- Schools may use PI funds to purchase books or other instructional supplies for families to use at home together during the school year or over the summer.



What is Never Allowable?

- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Entertainment, parties, awards programs, gifted programs
- ✓ Cash, high-value prizes, awards, incentives, gifts, tokens
- ✓ Never pay a parent to attend a school event



Best Practices

- Date all documents with month day and year
- Always have a sign-in sheet, meeting agendas and meeting minutes with parent suggestions and input at all parent meetings
- Always send various forms of documentation and communications to parents regarding meetings, programs and workshops



Parent Notifications Letters & Dissemination Requirements



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LEA and School Notices to Parents

A revision date must be evident on all revised policies for the school and district.

A current school year date must be evident on school and district policies.

The school and district policy must be made available to the community.



LEA and School Notices to Parents

To the extent practicable, information must be provided in a language that parents understand. If written translations are not possible, information must be provided in oral translations for parents with limited English proficiency.



LEA and School Notices to Parents

Annual Meeting:

Title I schools must notify parents of Title I students about the required annual meeting Title I information meeting for school wide and targeted assistance programs.

Title I Information:

Title I schools must provide information to parents about Title I, Part A program.



LEA and School Notices to Parents

What is the Compact?

- The school parent compact is a written agreement between the parents, the entire school staff and the students to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.



LEA and School Notices to Parents

The school compact must address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on a ongoing basis. At a minimum the compact must provide for parent teacher conferences frequently reporting their child's progress and reasonable access to staff opportunities to volunteer and participant in their child's class as well as observations of classroom activities.



Best Practices

- Conduct a thorough needs assessment.
- Survey *all parents – not just selected parents;*
- Clearly connect parental involvement goals, activities, and funds.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your PI spending.
- Maintain documentation for activities that were paid for using the PI set-aside.



Questions

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