

# **LAUREL HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Laurel Highlands 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—*

*(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.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

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

1. The Laurel Highlands 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:

*Parents will meet two times during the school year. A meet the teacher night will be held at the beginning of the year to review the parent involvement plan. A second meeting will be held at the mid-year point of the school year to review progress and make any additional suggestions.*

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

None of the schools in the District qualify for school improvement during the 2009-2010 school year, however student data is regularly analyzed to determine areas of need and individual school annual improvement plans are drafted by each school based on its students’ needs.

3. The Laurel Highlands 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 District will provide opportunities for staff to meet and analyze data to determine areas of need. All elementary schools have a common collaboration time that is used for this purpose.

4. The **Laurel Highlands School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start , Even Start by communicating with each program and offering informational materials to district parent's either through parent meeting and through our school's parent information centers. The district also collaborates with those agencies to focus on the same objectives to make transitioning into the school experience as smooth and successful as possible. Parents will be invited in for transitioning meetings to discuss their individual child and to help plan for their child's education.
5. The **Laurel Highlands 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 or disabled, have limited English proficiency or 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. Title I staff in each school will be responsible for surveying their parents and the results are shared with the District parent advisory committee to be used in planning for the next year. Areas included in the survey are successful strategies used during the current school year and suggestions for improvement of the program for the upcoming school year.
1. The **Laurel Highlands 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:

*Parent resource centers are in each school. An annual parent workshop is held during the spring. Workshops may also be held during the school year and during the summer term on an as needed basis. Parents may also contact their respective schools at any time to schedule an appointment. Parents are also invited to attend the yearly Pennsylvania State Parent Conference.*

- 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: holding parent workshops in spring of each school year. In addition, throughout the school year, district employees may conduct classes pertaining to the use of technology again this is dependent upon demand.
  
- 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: conducting parent workshops and also by inviting parents to various training programs offered to teachers. Sensitivity training for teachers with regard to strategies that increase parental comfort level and participation are held during district in-service days at the beginning of the school year.
  
- 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: remaining in contact with these agencies and facilitating and hosting common workshops and meetings.
  
- 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 District sends a bi-annual newsletter home with each student. Each school also sends home monthly school activity calendars.

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

- 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;
- 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.

This policy was adopted by the **Laurel Highlands School District** on May 2009 and will be in effect for the period of 1 Year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

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*(Signature of Authorized Official)*

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*(Date)*

