

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Petal School District believes positive parental involvement is essential to achieve maximum emotional, social, and academic growth and encourage participation of parents in all aspects of their child's education.

The Petal School District ensures that each participating Title I School will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parent of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;

Participating schools will invite all parents and community members to an annual meeting to inform them of the Title I School-wide Policy, benefits and activities, and the role, rights, and responsibilities of parents in the education of their child, and federal guidelines. Information presented will include parents' rights to know the qualifications of their child's teacher and the teachers' highly qualified status. Meetings will be publicized through a variety of means.

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;

Meetings for parents and community members will be held at different times of the day and different days of the week to accommodate stakeholders as much as possible. Meetings will be publicized through a variety of means.

3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan under section 1114(b)(2), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children;

Each school will utilize a committee comprised of school staff, parents, community members and if appropriate, students, to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I program. Data from surveys and the comprehensive needs assessment will be reviewed in order to make appropriate decisions regarding school plans and parent involvement policies and plans. A district-level committee will also be involved to review district data and determine

district plans and policies. School committees and the district committee will meet on a regular basis to update and revise the plans as needed.

4. Provide parents of participating children –

- A. timely information about programs under this part;
- B. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and

Information concerning federal programs will be communicated to parents and community members through parent meetings, flyers, and the school website. Teachers will communicate with families through various means (i.e.: websites, student planners, communication folder, etc.) Student assessment results and expectations for academic achievement will be explained in group/individual parent meetings. Administrators and teachers will be available and willing to answer questions posed by parents regarding academics or any other programs upon request.

5. If the school-wide program plan under section 1114(b)(2) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

Parents will be notified through various means regarding their right to make comments if they disagree with any aspect of individual school or the district's Title I policies and/or plan. Those comments will be submitted with each school's plan for district approval.

6. Share the responsibilities for high student academic achievement with parents, the entire school staff and students through the use of a School-Parent Compact.

Each school planning team will assist in the development of a parent-school compact. The compact will outline how parents, students, and school personnel will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The parent-school compact will describe the responsibility of the school principal and teacher to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction, the student's responsibility to participate in the learning, and the parent's responsibility to support the child. The current school year's compact will be kept on file at the school. The compact will be reviewed each year and revised if necessary.

7. Provide assistance in understanding the State's curriculum content standards, State's student academic standards for assessment, how to improve student achievement to include technology training, educate teachers, school staff, principals to the value of parental involvement, work with outside agencies to encourage parental involvement and publicize information regarding meetings that allow parental involvement.

The Petal School District will build partnerships with parents through several means to improve student achievement. Parents will be informed of state academic expectations during group and individual parent meetings. The district and individual websites will provide access to resources for supplemental practice and to computer based instructional programs. School handbooks and websites will contain the grading policy, information on how to reach school personnel if questions arise, and the interventions that can be provided through Teacher Support Teams. Communication will occur regularly with parents through written correspondence from teachers. Parents will be given opportunities to give their input through the school Shared Decision Making Council.

8. 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 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

The Petal School District will employ staff members who speak languages other than English and are available to provide translation during parent meetings. If needed, resources from local universities will be utilized to provide additional translation services. Information will be sent home to parents in the native language of the family.

9. Build teachers' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

The commitment of the Petal School District to building strong relationships with families is evident in the core beliefs of the district.

We believe that:

- A person's potential to learn is limitless.
- All people have intrinsic worth.
- Strength comes from engaging the full diversity of the community.
- Teamwork is essential to the continuous success of an organization.
- Family is the most important influence in the development of the individual.
- People can direct their own future.
- People are influenced more by what others do than by what they say.

By engaging in the diversity of the parents in our school community, we hope to lead each child to success. Every employee of the district centers his or her job around the mission of the district - to empower students to thrive. School personnel depend on the input and support of parents in all aspects of the child's education.