

Monroe County School District
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

This policy also serves as the:

District Title I Parent Involvement Policy, and
District NCLB Parent Involvement Policy

“100 years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child” – Author Unknown

The Monroe County School Board believes that parent involvement is essential for the school district to fulfill its mission of preparing students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

The Board believes that children learn best when parents and teachers work together. When parents talk to their children about school, expect them to do well, help them to plan for college or career, and make sure that out of school activities are positive, their children tend to do well in school and in life. Students with involved parents -- no matter what their income, background or language -- are more likely to do better in school, stay in school longer, like school more, and be productive citizens of their community and country.

To promote strong and effective parent involvement in all of its schools, the Monroe County School District is committed to:

1. Involving parents/guardians in the development of the district’s Consolidated Application and the district’s Title I Plan, and in the process of school review and improvement.

Parents/guardians may become involved in the development, review and Improvement process through various activities including, but not limited to:

- a) *School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings*
- b) *School Improvement Plan meetings*
- c) *Consolidated Application surveys*
- d) *School Climate surveys*

2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

To assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities, the district will:

- a) *Review with principals the requirements of the policy*
- b) *Provide suggested procedures for involving their SAC in the development/review and improvement process*
- c) *Provide sample forms for principals to use with their SAC members*
- d) *Provide timelines for schools to follow in implementing and documenting parent involvement activities*
- e) *Provide principals with information regarding programs, materials, and resources they may use for parent involvement activities*

- f) *Provide, to the extent possible, additional assistance as requested by principals and their SAC members*

3. Building the capacity of schools and parents for strong parental involvement.

To build the capacity of schools and parents for strong parent involvement, the district will:

- a) *Provide Title I schools with at least 95% of the 1% of Title I funds set aside for parent involvement – the 95% will be divided between the Title I schools so that each Title I school receives the same base amount*
- b) *Provide all schools with websites on which they may post information for parents*
- c) *Provide all schools with information/materials to assist their parents in understanding the state's academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and academic assessments*
- d) *Provide all schools with Pinnacle Parent Viewer so parents may view their child's progress online*
- e) *Provide all schools with Connect-ED, a communication service that allows schools to record, schedule, send, and track personalized voice messages to all parents in minutes*
- f) *Fund bilingual personnel at schools whose duties incorporate communication with parents whose language is other than English*
- g) *Promote review/discussion of the School-Parent Compact during parent-teacher conferences*
- h) *Provide schools with parent materials for use with both English and non-English speaking parents*
- i) *Provide principals with information regarding programs, materials, and resources they may use for parent involvement activities with special focus on:*
 - ❖ *Training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement; and*
 - ❖ *Training/activities to improve the manner in which school personnel reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents*
- j) *Provide, to the extent possible, additional assistance as requested by principals and their SAC members*

4. Coordinating and integrating NCLB and Title I parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs.

Each school, including Title I schools, will inform and encourage their parents, including Title I parents, to participate in literacy and/or parenting training available through other programs such as, but not limited to: Literacy Volunteers of America, the Wesley House Neighborhood Centers, and Adult Education.

5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the participating schools, including:

- **Identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent 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.**
- **Using evaluation findings to design strategies for more effective parent involvement.**
- **Revising, if necessary, the district and school parent involvement policies.**

To involve Title I parents in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the participating school, the district will:

- a) *Provide Title I schools with copies of the District Parent Involvement Policy for distribution to Title I parents*
- b) *Provide Title I schools with a survey through which Title I parents may evaluate the District Parent Involvement Policy and recommend changes for improvement*
- c) *Identify a timeline for Title I schools to have their SAC review the District Parent Involvement Policy and invite their Title I parents to participate in that process*
- d) *Identify a timeline by which Title I schools are to submit the results of their SAC's review of the District Parent Involvement Policy and their recommendations for improvement*

6. Involving parents/guardians in the activities of schools, including schools served under Title I, Part A

Parents/guardians may become involved in school activities in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to:

- a) *School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings*
- b) *School Improvement Plan meetings*
- c) *Consolidated Application surveys*
- d) *School Climate surveys*
- e) *Parent Nights*
- f) *Parent Meetings/Conferences/Surveys/Compacts*
- g) *School's Parent Resource Center - to access reading and math take-home materials*