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December 12, 2014

Christi Boortz
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind County School District
207 North San Marco Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Dear Ms. Boortz:

We are pleased to inform you that Florida School for the Deaf & Blind County 2014-2015 LEA Parental Involvement Policy/Plan (PIP) meets all of the requirements outlined in Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Please be reminded that the local educational agency (LEA) is required to share the contents of the PIP with parents of children participating in the Title I program. The information must be provided in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Wanda Young via email Wanda.Young@fldoe.org or by telephone at 850-245-0726.

Sincerely,

Sonya G. Morris

SGM/wy

SONYA G. MORRIS, CHIEF
BUREAU OF FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SCHOOL FOR DEAF/BLIND Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Plan

I, Dr. Prickett, do hereby certify that all facts, figures, and representations made in this application are true, correct, and consistent with the statement of assurances for these waivers. Furthermore, all applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures; administrative and programmatic requirements; and procedures for fiscal control and maintenance of records will be implemented to ensure proper accountability for the expenditure of funds on this project. All records necessary to substantiate these requirements will be available for review by appropriate state and federal staff. I further certify that all expenditures will be obligated on or after the effective date and prior to the termination date of the project. Disbursements will be reported only as appropriate to this project, and will not be used for matching funds on this or any special project, where prohibited.

Assurances

- The LEA 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 LEA 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 includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA;
- The LEA will incorporate this LEA-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 LEA 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 [Section 1118(f)];
- 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 LEA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the LEA submits the plan to FDOE;
- The LEA will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one 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, after equitable provisions have been provided to participating private schools;
- The LEA will be governed by the statutory definition of "parental involvement" defined in Section 9101 (32), and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition; and

Signature of Superintendent or Designee

(Note: If this certification is signed by a designee, then the letter authorizing this person to sign in place of the Superintendent must be included with this request.)

Date Signed

Mission Statement

Parental Involvement Mission Statement (Optional)

Response: Parent involvement is a powerful influence on a child's achievement in school. When schools work together with parents to support learning, children are inclined to succeed not only in school, but throughout life. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to participate as informed partners with school personnel in implementing the Title I school programs in an effort to improve student academic achievement and school

performance.

Involvement of Parents

Describe the actions the LEA will take to involve parents in the following required policies/plans:

- LEA-wide parental involvement policy (PIP)[Section 1118(a)(2)];
- LEA plan [Sections 1112 (c)(H), 1112(d)(1)]; and
- How the funds reserved for parental involvement will be spent [Section 1118(a)(2)].

Response: The LEA Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) will be developed with parent, teacher, and administrative consultation provided by the Title I Parent Advisory Team. The FSDB Parent Services Department will coordinate and execute PIP components in conjunction with the Title I Grant Coordinator and Title I Assistant.

The LEA PIP will be developed/revised at the end of each school year. The new plan will be developed the at the beginning of the following school year, with the Title I Parent Advisory Team providing the meaningful and valid parent consultation.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) plans for each school are developed through extensive consultation with the LEA-wide School Advisory Council (SAC); the portions pertaining to Title I are additionally reviewed by the Title I Parent Advisory Team during the school year before the final plan is submitted to FLDOE.

How the 1% required set aside for parent involvement activities is spent will be determined during the spring meeting of the Title I Parent Advisory Team.

The members of the Title I Parent Advisory Team are selected by the Principal or Assistant Principal of each Title I school. Each Title I school has 3-4 representatives. Since there are 4 Title I schools presently, the Title I Parent Advisory Team has at least 12 members. Other Title I school parents are welcome to attend the meetings as well.

Minutes are taken at all Title I Parent Advisory Team meetings. Any programmatic or Title I school plan evaluations are compiled through the use of a feedback/comment form. The forms are collected and reviewed by the Title I Assistant. The Title I Assistant relays the parent feedback to the campus administrators during Title I "Core" administrative team meetings and/or email communication.

Technical Assistance

Describe the actions the LEA will take to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities which build the capacity of parents to improve the academic achievement of their child and overall school performance [Section 1118(a)(2)(B and C) and 1118(e)(1-14)]. Include a description of the process the LEA will use to review the school-level PIP to ensure compliance with all requirements of Section 1118 [34 CFR 200.30(e)]. Include information on how the LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request [Section 1118(e)(14)].

Response: The Title I Parent Advisory Team will meet quarterly each school year; this parent team will provide valuable input on effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement with an emphasis on home-based activities that

complement school academic curriculum.

·FSDB Parent Services Department will continue to provide parent activities, classes, and workshops such as parent instruction in ASL (sign language), Braille, and Orientation and Mobility. These classes facilitate improved communication between parents and their children. They provide parents with the skills necessary to parent at a greater capacity and with the knowledge needed to complete tasks such as assisting their child with homework.

·Typically a large portion of the parent involvement set aside goes toward reimbursement of travel costs, which enables parents from around the state to attend capacity building meetings. Each year parents on the Title I Parent Advisory Team request that this activity is continued in the next school year. This is one of the most valued means of support for parent involvement activities in the Title I budget.

·The Title I Parent Advisory Team (TIPAT) develops and evaluates the LEA PIP as a whole group. Additional breakout sessions during selected TIPAT meetings enable members from each Title I school to develop and evaluate their Title I school's PIP (Parent Involvement Plan).

Coordination and Integration

Describe how the LEA will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies from Part A of Title I with other federal programs (including but not limited to Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Title I, Part C, Title I, Part D of Title I, Title III, and Title IV, Part A) [Sections 1118 (a)(2)(D) and 1118(e)(4)].

| count | Program | Coordination |
|-------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | FSDB Parent Services Dept. | FSDB Parent Services receives federal funding for their programs and resources through the IDEA part B grant in addition to Title I part A. The parent liaisons will plan grant purchases carefully in order to best meet LEA-wide parent needs. |
| 2 | Parent Liaison | One of the Parent Liaisons working in FSDB Parent Services will continue to have her salary funded through IDEA part B. |
| 3 | Parent Infant Program | The Parent Infant Program at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) offers early intervention, family-centered services for children ages 0-5 who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired. Children with vision loss are served through the state funded Division of Blind Services Blind Babies Program and children with hearing loss through school funds and private sponsors. Children served through this program may qualify to attend FSDB at age 3. |
| 4 | Private Business Sponsors | Private business sponsorships (coordinated by the Advancement Office staff) have contributed extensively and qualitatively to FSDB programs and will likely do so in the future. |
| 5 | Title I part A | Professional development monies disbursed through Title I will train teachers in effective parent outreach. For 14/15 specifically, Christel Reaves will present on this topic at FSDB. She will be paid consultant fees through Title I, but teacher stipends for attending her training (outside of contracted work hours) will come from Title II part A. |
| 6 | Early Steps | Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. This program is funded through IDEA part C, children with vision or hearing loss who are enrolled in Early Steps may qualify to attend FSDB after they turn 3. |

Annual Evaluation

Describe the actions the LEA will take to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the Title I, Part A schools [Section 1118(a)(2)(E)].

Response: The content and effectiveness of the LEA Parent Involvement Policy in improving the quality of Title I part A schools will be reviewed and discussed during the final meeting of the Title I Parent Advisory Team. Parent suggestions will be incorporated into the LEA Parent Involvement Policy for the following school year. There is a feedback form called "Title I Program Evaluation" that parents record their programmatic suggestions or ideas for program changes upon; the Parent Liaison compiles the ideas and adds them to the plan if they are feasible. She consults with the Title I Grant Coordinator first to ensure that leadership is in agreement with the proposed changes. FSDB Parent Services staff manages many of the activities contained in the Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) such as preparing the travel reimbursements, and confer often with Title I Administrators to ensure effective coordination of services.

Building Capacity

If the LEA plans to implement LEA-wide activities, describe the actions the LEA will take to build the schools' and parents' 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 [Sections 1118(a)(2)(C), 1118(e)(1-14)].

| count | Content and Type of Activity | Person Responsible | Anticipated Impact on Student Achievement | Timeline | Evidence of Effectiveness |
|-------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Title I Parent Advisory Team formation | Tracie Snow, Title I Assistant | Parent Involvement Factor | New team formed in August of each year | Parent attendance and involvement in Title 1 events and affairs |
| 2 | Signed Family-School Compacts | Tracie Snow, Title I Assistant | Parent Involvement Factor | Compacts formulated & signed at the start of the school year or at IEP meetings during the year | Return of Signed Compacts, clarified responsibilities for student learning and achievement |
| 3 | Parent Travel Reimbursements | Misty Porter, Parent Liaison | Parent Involvement & Skills Building | After every parent capacity-building meeting or event on campus | Hard copies of the Parent Travel Reimbursements |
| 4 | Parent Newsletter | Misty Porter, Parent Liaison | Parent Involvement Enhanced | Published every 8 weeks | Parent participation in campus events |
| 5 | Parent Outreach (Open House, Registration Day, New Parent Packets, Parent/Student Handbooks and Calendars) | FSDB Parent Services Dept. | Parent knowledge & skills impacts their child's (student) achievement | Ongoing through the School Year | Parent participation in events/trainings and knowledge of school contacts and campus events |
| 6 | Parent ASL, Braille, & | FSDB Parent | Parent | Ongoing | Improved communication |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Orientation and Mobility Classes | Services Department | knowledge & skills impact their child's school performance. | throughout the School Year | between parents and their children and increased parent capacity to complete tasks such as assisting their child with homework |
| 7 | Family Friendly Schools: A welcoming and engaging environment with programs to promote strong relationships between parents and FSDB staff. | FSDB Parent Services Department, School wide | Parent Involvement Enhanced, | Ongoing through the School Year | Parent report, participation level in campus events, school enrollment numbers. Enrollment numbers in Informed and Included enrollment numbers, Skyward and teacher website usage. |
| 8 | Parent Engagement Workshops | FSDB Parent Services Department | Parent Capacity Building | 4-5 Workshops through the School Year | Increase parent skill and capacity to support student learning and achievement |

Staff Training

Describe the professional development activities the LEA will provide, with the assistance of the schools and parents, to educate staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; the implementation and coordination of parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the school [Section 1118 (e)(3)].

| count | Content and Type of Activity | Person Responsible | Anticipated Impact on Student Achievement | Timeline | Evidence of Effectiveness |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Family Friendly Schools | FSDB Parent Services Department | Welcoming atmosphere and improved parent-staff relationships impact student achievement to facilitate ongoing communication and awareness of academic projects, homework assignments, etc. | Ongoing through the School Year | School Enrollment Numbers, Informed and Included enrollment |
| 2 | FSDB website and teacher website Quality Review | FSDB Parent Services Dept. | Ensuring that teacher websites are comprehensible, interesting, and up to date for parents. Teacher websites facilitate ongoing communication and awareness of academic projects, homework assignments, etc. | Annual | teacher feedback on website review, parent report of access to FSDB staff and effectiveness and ease of use of new FSDB website |

Communication and Accessibility

Describe how the LEA will provide full opportunities for participation in parental involvement activities for all parents (including parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and migratory children). Include how the LEA plans to share information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand [Section 1118(e)(5) and 1118(f)].

Response: The main barrier to full participation in parent involvement activities remains constant—parents live all around the state of Florida. They cannot readily attend campus meetings, events, and training due to the distance. FSDB seeks to overcome this barrier by providing funds for travel reimbursement for educational events/training. (Athletic events or other events that do not build capacity but are recreational do not receive

reimbursement.)

·Written translations of school communication will be provided to parents with limited English proficiency in their native language. Large-print and Braille versions of written communication are also provided to any parents as needed courtesy of the Braille Production Center.

·The Title I Assistant set a specific goal of parent attendance at over 58% each Title I Parent Advisory Team meeting (at least 7/12 parent representatives attend). In order to achieve this goal, funds assist parents with travel costs, food is provided at meetings, and the meetings times and days are varied to work around parent schedules.

·In addition to translations of written materials, sign language interpreters and/or Spanish translators will attend Title I part A 'Parent Advisory Team' meetings (as well as other parent meetings) and workshops or training to provide these services as needed.

·Closed captioning, sign language, and Spanish interpreting is also provided for parent meetings broadcast live on the web.

Discretionary Activities

The LEA parental involvement policy may include additional discretionary activities that the LEA, in consultation with the parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement [Section 1118(e)]. Check here if the LEA does not plan to implement the discretionary parental involvement activities. Check all activities the LEA plans to implement:

| count | Activity | Description of Implementation Strategy | Person Responsible | Anticipated Impact on Student Achievement | Timeline |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 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 [Section 1118(e)(8)]; | Travel Expense Reimbursement | Parent Liaisons, FSDB Parent Services | Increased Parent Involvement | All FSDB parent capacity events during the year |
| 2 | Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education by 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 [Section 1118(e)(10)]; | TIPA Parent Team Meetings, Offering access to Parent Classes, trainings, workshops, and information via livestream, vimeo, or other electronic formats to allow for participation when parents are unable to travel | Title I Assistant | Increased Parent Participation | 4 - 5 TIPA Parent Team meetings during school year |
| 3 | Adopting and implementing | Christel Reaves Training | Title I | Increased Parent | Fall 2014 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | model approaches to improving parental involvement [Section 1118(e)(11)]; | | Assistant & FSDB Parent Services | Participation in school affairs, more teacher participation in parent outreach | |
| 4 | Establishing a LEA-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs [Section 1118(e)(12)]; and | TIPAT (Title I Parent Advisory Team) | Title I Assistant & Title I Assistant Principals | Involving and Training Parents | Meetings held quarterly during the school year |

Upload Evidence of Input from Parents

Upload evidence of parent input in the development of the plan.

Evaluation of the previous year's Parental Involvement Plan

Building Capacity Summary

Provide a summary of the activities provided during the previous school year designed to build the capacity of parents to help their children [Section 1118(e)(1-2)].

| count | Content and Type of Activity | Number of Activities | Number of Participants | Anticipated Impact on Student Achievement |
|-------|--|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Title I Parent Advisory | 1 | 19 | Increased parent capacity for homework help, understanding FL. Standards, Family Friendly Schools. |
| 2 | Signed Family-School Compacts | 17 | 180 | Increased Parental involvement, knowledge, and skills |
| 3 | Parent Travel Reimbursement | 5 | 1944 | Increased parent knowledge and skills |
| 4 | Parent Connections Newsletter | 6 | 4200 | Increased Parental Involvement in capacity building events and knowledge of campus events |
| 5 | Parent Outreach (Registration Day, New Parent Packets) | 6 | 46 | Increased Parental Involvement in capacity building events |
| 6 | Parent Classes, Workshops, and Trainings | 1 | 350 | Increased parent involvement, improved parent/ teacher relationships, and clarified responsibilities for student learning |
| 7 | Christel Reaves: Capacity Training | 4 | 30 | Increased Parent Involvement in Title 1 affairs |

Staff Training Summary

Provide a summary of the professional development activities provided during the previous school year by the LEA to educate staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; the implementation and coordination of parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the school [Section 1118(e)(3)].

| count | Content and Type of Activity | Number of Activities | Number of Participants | Anticipated Impact on Student Achievement |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Family Friendly Schools | 48 | 528 | Improved parent-staff relationships positively impact student achievement |
| 2 | Teacher Website | 4 | 24 | Increased parental involvement in student academics and improved teacher/parent communication |
| 3 | Christel Reaves Training | 1 | 30 | Importance of parent engagement and FL Standards |

Private School Summary

Provide a summary of the parental involvement activities provided during the previous school year for private schools implementing a Title I, Part A program [Section 1120(a)(1)].

X Not Applicable

Barriers

Describe the barriers which hindered participation by parents in parental involvement activities during the previous school year. Include the steps the LEA will take during the current school year to overcome the barriers and design more effective parental involvement policies (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background) [Section 1118(a)(2)(E)].

| count | Barrier (Including the Specific Subgroup) | Steps the School will Take to Overcome |
|-------|---|---|
| 1 | LEP Barrier: Language | All written materials sent home to parents will be translated into their native language; campus meetings will have a language translator if parents speaking another language are present. |
| 2 | Low Income/Disadvantaged | Parent travel reimbursements will allow parents to come to campus capacity-building events since they will receive financial reimbursement. |
| 3 | Distance | Distance barrier is likewise overcome through the travel reimbursements in cell #2; additionally, meetings will be live-streamed when possible. |
| 4 | Blind/Low Vision Parents | All written materials will be transcribed into Braille for blind parents; the Braille Transcription Center will also put materials into large font/binding for low vision parents. |
| 5 | Deaf/Hard of Hearing Parents | FSDB will provide an ASL interpreter during meetings if Deaf/HoH parents will be present. |

Best Practices (Optional)

Describe the parental involvement activity/strategy implemented during the previous school year the LEA considers the most effective. This information may be shared with other LEAs as a best practice.

(Optional)

| count | Content/Purpose | Description of the Activity |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------|