

Iberia Parish School System

District Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021 School Year

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The **Iberia Parish School System** 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 **Iberia Parish School System** 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:

- **A district Parental Advisory Council (PAC) will be organized from parent representatives of Title I schools. This Council will meet two times per school year to address parental concerns, plan and evaluate educational workshops, revise the Title 1 Parent Book, and evaluate and revise the district Parental Involvement Policy. The Parental Involvement/Title 1 Instructional Specialist will supervise the PAC activities.**

2. The **Iberia Parish School System** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- **Title I schools will have a Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Representatives from this group will serve as active members of the school improvement team. They will meet with the team and provide input in a collaborative effort to help students and schools achieve their goals. This PAC will evaluate the school policy annually, along with the school-parent compact, and revisions will be made accordingly.**

3. The **Iberia Parish School System** 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 annually host parental involvement coordinator meetings to assist schools in planning effective parental involvement activities, revising and evaluating the school parental involvement policies and school-parent compacts.**
 - **Upon request, the district parental involvement coordinator will assist schools in presenting information to parents to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

4. The **Iberia Parish School System** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:
 - **In order to facilitate effective parental involvement across the parish, an interagency collaboration between special education, state preschool programs, Head Start, Migrant Program, LEP Program and Title I will be maintained. Joint activities will be carried out involving the staff, parents, and children of each program. These groups will meet whenever necessary to plan activities.**

1. The **Iberia Parish School System** 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, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have 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.
 - **An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy will be conducted by the Parental Involvement/Title I Instructional Specialist to identify ways of improving the academic quality of the schools and employ new methods of obtaining a greater participation in parental involvement at the school and district levels.**
 - **The district Parental Advisory Council and school parental involvement coordinators will evaluate this policy.**
 - **The evaluation form used will cover all aspects of the policy and allow for independent comments that may be warranted.**
 - **The results of the evaluation will be compiled and used to revise the policy.**

- **Additionally, a parent needs assessment will be completed to determine topics of interest for other types of activities that will be beneficial to parents at both the district and school levels.**
 - **The needs assessment will include questions pertaining to barriers that prohibit parent involvement and how these barriers may be resolved. The information will be used to make accommodations for the next school year.**
 - **Parents will be given evaluation forms to complete after all parental involvement activities to assess the effectiveness of the activities and allow for adjustments to be made for future workshops.**
2. **The Iberia Parish School System** 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:
- **A Title I Parent Handbook will be prepared and made available to all parents of participating children. The handbook will contain information about Title I requirements and detail activities funded through the program. Parenting tips, educational strategies for use at home, parents' right-to-know procedure and the district parental involvement policy will be included. The policy will also be distributed to any member of the community upon request.**
 - **Professional development activities may be attended by staff and parents during the year. Louisiana Parent Congress meetings and Expo are statewide opportunities for professional development. Meetings for school personnel on strategies for educating parents will be scheduled. Strong parent and school partnerships with open communication will be stressed. Activities sponsored by other agencies, organizations, and parishes will be attended whenever possible.**
- 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:

- **The Parental Involvement/Title I Instructional Specialist will assist schools in administering effective parental involvement activities. Support, materials, equipment and technical assistance will be provided as needed at the school building level. A district parent resource center will be maintained. The center will provide materials for parents that will assist them in their efforts to improve their children's learning as well as their own.**

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:

- **The Parental Involvement/Title I Instructional Specialist will provide assistance to principals and parental involvement coordinators on writing a parental involvement policy and school-parent compact for their schools. Additional assistance will be provided upon request. The policy will be placed in the school handbook that is given to each parent at the beginning of the school year. Parents will sign a form indicating that they have read the handbook and the parental involvement policy. The compact will be sent home and signed by parents and students. The school parental involvement coordinator will keep these forms on file.**

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool and other programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- **In order to facilitate effective parental involvement across the parish, an interagency collaboration between special education, state preschool programs, Head Start, Migrant Program, and Title I will be maintained. Joint activities will be carried out involving the staff, parents, and children of each program. These groups will meet whenever necessary to plan activities.**

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:

- i. School personnel reviews all parent communication to ensure there is no educational jargon that could lead to misunderstanding by parents.
- ii. School personnel can request the district translator to translate parent communication in Spanish.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- The Iberia Parish School System recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the goal of academic excellence for every child. Active parental involvement enhances high expectations in the educational process. Through active parent participation more knowledge and support for the education process is acquired from the home.
- The Iberia Parish Parental Involvement Program will incorporate activities through the collaboration of the community, parents, and educators. This program will provide information, guidance, and training for the parents of Iberia Parish.

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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, as evidenced by **parental advisory council agendas and signature documentation.**

This policy was adopted by the **Iberia Parish School System** on **February 20, 2020** and will be in effect for the period of the **2020-2021 school year.** The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **September 2020.**

(Signature of Authorized Official)