

### **Parental Involvement in Title Planning**

The Bismarck Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The District will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. The District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
3. The District will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
4. In carrying out the Title I parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. If the district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the District will submit any parent comments with the plan when the District submits the plan to the Department of Public Instruction.
6. The District will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement is spent.
7. The 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.

### **Parental Involvement Policy Requirements**

1. The Bismarck Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan: a parent advisory council will be formed and meet annually to review the Parental Involvement Policy and budget; distribute the Title I District Parental Involvement Policy annually to all parents and schools; providing meeting minutes and the Parental Involvement Policy on the District's website.
2. The Bismarck Public School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance: in addition to activities in 1, above, provide a parent involvement coordinator at each Title I school.
3. The Bismarck Public School District will convene an annual meeting each Spring in April or May, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents 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.
4. The Bismarck Public School District will offer a flexible meeting date, such as 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.
5. The Bismarck Public School District will 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, through the following activities specifically described below:
  - a. The District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the District or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
    - i. the state's academic content standards,
    - ii. the state's student academic achievement standards,
    - iii. the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
    - iv. the requirements of Title I,
    - v. how to monitor their child's progress, and
    - vi. how to work with educators

by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph: distribute annual school district AYP reports; provide bi-annual explanations of student achievement data (e.g. NWEA, NDSA, DIBELS) to parents; provide "Friday Fliers" newsletter about school and community events; inform parents they can find state content and

achievement standards on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) website; authorizing Title I representatives, coordinators, teachers, and parents to attend Title I conferences.

- b. The Bismarck Public School District will provide parents of participating children, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.
- c. The District will, with the assistance of its Title I 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: providing parents with strategies for working with children at home, providing access to PowerSchool and email communication as well as notes home, inviting parents to attend annual parent meetings, providing parents a link to book lists and parent resources in schools, scheduling events to foster parental involvement, survey parents about needs, program improvement ideas, and implement needed changes to school plans,
- d. The District will, with the assistance of its Title I 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: having Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators actively participate on each school's Parent Involvement Planning committee; distribute Title I handouts for DPI for principals, teachers, and parents; facilitate collaboration between district reading and math teachers and instructional coaches and Title I Parent Involvement Coordinators; collaborating with parents and specialists in response to interventions at grade level team planning at individual school levels; and partner with the BPS Community Relations Department to communicate with parents about events and workshops .
- e. The 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: allowing all BPS students to participate in Camp Adventure, Coordinate transfer of information at principal meetings, collaborate with BECEP to provide smooth transition to kindergarten, and coordinate with BECEP staff to share information about kindergarten activities with parents of BECEP students.

- f. The District will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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: creation of parent-friendly newsletters, providing a review of Title I information annually by the parent advisory committee and staff to validate content and readability, sending of survey results to all parents of students attending Title I schools, translating material as needed, directing parents to the BPS Title I link on the BPS website, distributing the annual AYP letter and information on dispute resolution and building profile notification, and providing a glossary of terms related to Title I services and assessments on the BPS website.
6. The Bismarck Public School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Right Track, and Infant Development and Early Childhood Special Education by: collaborating by Title I parent involvement coordinators and BECEP staff to foster a smooth transition for children from preschool to elementary school, monthly district leadership team meetings to support the transferring of parent involvement information across the district, providing elementary students a middle school tour, and provide meetings, as needed, to foster a smooth transition from elementary to middle school.
7. The Bismarck Public 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 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 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. Actions will include annual review of the district parent involvement policy with the district Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC), communication of Title I PAC recommendations to school staff and parents through each parent involvement coordinator, make revisions as needed / possible, and use of social media to post many activities, events, and important Title information.
8. The Bismarck Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement: parents will receive notice of school improvement goals via the BPS website, parents will be involved on Schoolwide Title I planning teams, and parents will be surveyed annually for inputs used to make recommendations and improvements.

**Shared Responsibilities for High Student Achievement**

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

**Parental Involvement Policy Discretionary Components**

The District Parental Involvement Policy includes discretionary activities that the District, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

1. Title I part A funds will be used to hire parent involvement coordinators to coordinate all Title I parent events.
2. Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds.
3. Pay 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.
4. Engage parents in a variety of involvement opportunities such as volunteering, parenting, communicating, collaborating with community, learning and home, and decision making.
5. Establish and maintain a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.

**Policy Adoption**

This district parental involvement policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes.

This policy will be in effect for the period of one school year. The District will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children on the District's website.

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**Complementary Documents**

- FDC, Education of Migrant Students
- GABAA, English Language Learners
- KAB-E, School Parent Compact