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## **TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

**PURPOSE:** In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district-wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the LEA (Local Education Agency) expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities and is incorporated into the LEA plan submitted to the State Educational Agency (SEA).

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

1. The Chariho Regional School District Schools agree 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 Rhode Island Department of Education.
- The school district 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.
- 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 Rhode Island Parental Information and Resource Center.

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Chariho Regional School District Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide Title I parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA.
  - *Schedule regular parental involvement advisory meetings.*
  - *Conduct an annual review/revision of the District Parental Involvement Policy with Title I parents and staff.*
  
2. The Chariho Regional School District Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA.
  - *Include parent/community involvement as an objective in each Title I school's annual School Improvement Plan.*
  - *Include school review and improvement in the discussions with parents at advisory board meetings and Title I information nights with specific focus on the Supplemental Reading Program.*
  - *Include parents and community members on School Improvement Teams.*
  - *Disseminate information through a school report night and a monthly newsletter.*
  - *Conduct surveys after all parent involvement activities to solicit information about strengths and needs of each program presentation.*
  - *Conduct beginning and end-of-year surveys mailed home to all Title I eligible families.*
  
3. The Chariho Regional School District Schools 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.
  - *An effort will be made to obtain a part-time volunteer Parent Outreach Coordinator to facilitate parental involvement activities in each of Chariho's Title I eligible schools.*
  - *Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with Title I parental involvement activities, including transportation, food, and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.*
  - *Allocate resources to Title I parent involvement activities beyond minimum requirements.*
  - *Conduct activities at times identified as reasonable and convenient for families, i.e. Saturdays or evenings when possible.*
  - *Meet regularly with Title I reading teachers and principals to allow them time and provide assistance to plan meaningful parent involvement activities.*
  - *Distribute information through the Title I page of the Chariho Website to increase parental involvement and reading success.*
  - *Share information and materials from agencies such as the Rhode Island Parent Information Network to Title I eligible families.*

4. The Chariho Regional School District Schools 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.

- *Conduct surveys at all parent involvement activities to solicit information about strengths and needs of each program presentation and again several weeks later to evaluate effectiveness.*
- *Use survey results to identify barriers and training needs so as to address concerns and increase family participation in parent involvement activities.*
- *Conduct end-of-year parent meetings with families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Reviewing formative and summative assessment data at the District, school, and classroom level.*
- *Conduct monthly meetings with the District Title I staff.*
- *Consider input from all formal and informal evaluations to craft yearly parent involvement plans.*

5. The Chariho Regional School District Schools will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools 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 —

- Rhode Island's academic content standards,
- Rhode Island's student academic achievement standards,
- Rhode Island's 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:

*This goal will be accomplished by:*

- *Convening the parents of Title I eligible students at a public meeting to explain the federally funded program.*
- *Inviting parents to annual Open House and Title I information sessions.*
- *Notifying parents regularly of a child's progress in supplemental or alternative placement programs – both formally in writing and informally through parent-teacher conferences.*
- *Providing workshops/training for parents to increase their involvement with the success of school programs. Training topics may include assessment, understanding Grade Level Expectations or Grade Span Expectations, Common Core Standards, and/or other areas as needed.*

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:

- *Providing workshops/training for parents to increase their involvement with the success of school programs and to assist their children with educational progress. Training topics may include how to help with homework, strategies to support developing readers at home and/or other areas as needed.*
- *Providing materials such as free resources from the United States Department of Education to families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Distributing information through a website, in the home language, to families of Title I eligible students. The purpose of this website is to help increase parental involvement and reading success. All information includes suggestions for parents to use with their children at home to help build reading skills.*
- *Distributing free books, summer resource packets, and community resources to families of Title I eligible students.*

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:

- *Coordinating regularly scheduled meetings with the Title I staff at each school, to discuss family outreach practices.*
- *Conducting monthly meetings of the District Title I staff.*
- *Provide funds for Title I staff to attend training and conferences specifically geared toward increasing parental involvement (National Title I Conference, RIDE trainings, etc.) as appropriate and practicable.*

D. 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:

- *Distribute information through a website, in the home language, to families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Use traditional mail, e-mail and a resource website to communicate with families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Provide reminder phone calls prior to all school-based parent involvement activities.*
- *Ensure that all written communication sent home to Title I eligible families is in parent-friendly language.*

### **PART III. 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 the agenda and minutes of a parent meeting held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, and the School Committee agenda and minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

This policy was adopted by the School Committee of the Chariho Regional School District Schools on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. The school district will distribute this policy annually to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

Adopted 2/26/02, Revised 7/17/12 (Effective 8/29/12)