



Did You Know...?

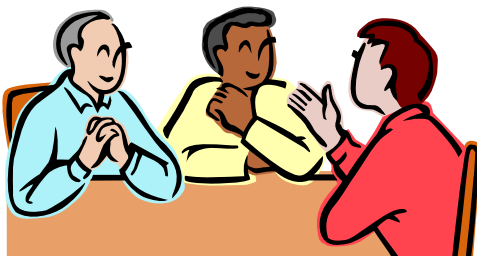
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What No Child Left Behind Says About Parent Involvement

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) became law in 2002 with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). NCLB requires that all schools receiving Title I dollars in every school district in America have a written parent involvement policy which is developed jointly with and agreed upon with parents and educators. It must be distributed to parents and educators of children participating in Title I programs. It must ensure that successful strategies that encourage and sustain active parent involvement are in place in every school.

Every school receiving Title I money is required to:

1. Develop with parents a written parent involvement policy that is then distributed to parents and made available to the local community.
2. Hold an annual meeting of parents to inform them of the policy and their right to be involved. The meeting must be scheduled at a time convenient for families.
3. Offer flexible parent involvement meetings. Schools may use Title I money to provide child care, transportation, or home visits.
4. Involve parents in an organized and ongoing way in the planning, review, and improvement of school programs.
5. Develop with parents a school-parent agreement that outlines actions to be taken to improve individual student academic achievement.
6. Increase opportunities for parent involvement in the school by helping parents understand academic content standards. Schools must also provide opportunities for parents to learn about state academic achievement standards and assessments.
7. Provide materials and training for parents, teachers, pupil services personnel, and other staff to foster greater parent involvement.
8. Integrate activities with other school programs, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Head Start, English as a Second Language (ESL) and others.



What You Can Do

The law requires Title I schools to ensure that each parent involvement policy statement be written together with parents, school staff, and school district personnel. This requirement enables parents to sit at the table with school administrators and other educators and write a parent involvement statement. This statement should address how the school, in partnership with parents, will promote the social, emotional, and academic growth of children. Parents are now required to be a part of the discussion about how schools will help all children meet the state's academic performance standards.

- Ask for a copy of your school's Parent Involvement Policy. Take time to review it. If you need more information, meet with the principal to review the policy.
- Find out what other parents think about the policy and if it covers their concerns. PTA or PTO meetings, neighborhood or community events are good places to visit with other parents. Find out when school and District meetings are scheduled and plan to attend. Get contact information for parent leaders in your school. Take time to contact them.
- When you review the policy, look for the answers to these questions.
 - *How were parents involved in developing the policy?*
 - *How often is this policy reviewed? When was it reviewed and updated?*
 - *What kind of parent training will be offered and when? Do the topics reflect the interests of families?*
 - *How does the school get parent input and approval of the policy?*
 - *What ways are planned to make meetings and other events convenient and accessible to families? Are times flexible? Is there transportation and childcare?*
 - *Does the policy consider barriers to family involvement and ways to address these challenges?*



The Right Question

We need good information to make informed decisions that will help our child succeed. The best way to get information is to ask questions and listen to the answers. Asking "the right question" will help get specific information and may help to open discussions about possibilities.

Closed-Ended Questions get a *yes* or *no* answer. (Does this school receive Title I Funds?)

Open-Ended Questions create discussions. (What parent workshops are planned for this year?)

"Did You Know...?" fact sheets are developed by Parents Reaching Out in collaboration with the New Mexico Public Education Department under a grant from the US Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement. Views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education and should not be assumed to be an endorsement by the Federal Government.