



Did You Know...?

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What *No Child Left Behind* Says About Your School District's Parent Involvement Policy

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) became law in 2002 with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). NCLB requires all school districts that receive Title I funds to have a written Title I parent involvement policy developed with and approved by parents of participating Title I children. This policy must be evaluated each year. It must explain how the district will involve parents in developing its Title I plan and how parents will be informed about ways they can be included in decision making for the program.

What can I do?

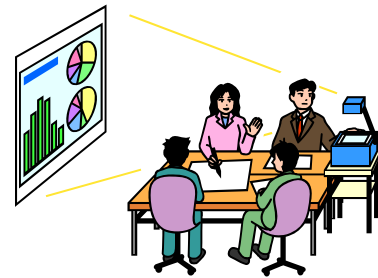
Call your school superintendent's office to get a copy of your district's Title I parent involvement policy. Find out:

- *How were parents involved in developing, approving, and reviewing the policy?* NCLB says the policy must be developed jointly with parents, agreed on with parents, and distributed to parents in a language that they can understand.

Parents must be involved in an annual review policy to determine how effective it has been in increasing the participation of parents. Results are used to identify and plan strategies to correct barriers to parental participation

- *Does the policy explain how parents, including those with limited English proficiency, will be involved in school review and improvement?* NCLB says that districts must state how parents will be involved in addressing academic issues for schools "in need of improvement."

- *How will the district help Title I schools engage parents in activities to improve student achievement?* NCLB says that districts will look at how the schools are involving parents and will provide technical assistance to schools "in need of improvement" in carrying out parental involvement activities and plans.



- *What does the policy require schools to do?* The law says that schools In Need of Improvement must have school improvement plans that include ways to effectively involve parents in the school.
- *Does the policy apply only to Title I schools, or to all schools in the district?* The law says that the policy has to apply to Title I schools, but parents can push to ensure that all schools are covered.

Get the facts about your District's parent involvement policy.

- *How does the district connect with parent plans in programs for young children, such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers and Even Start? The law says that districts must coordinate and integrate Title I parent involvement strategies with other programs for young children in the district.*
- *What is the district doing to build partnerships with organizations (like local education funds, Boys and Girls clubs, YMCA and YWCAs, the Urban League, etc.) and businesses in activities that involve parents?*
- *Does the district parent involvement policy clearly explain how the district will work with schools to:*
 - Explain state standards and annual test results to parents
 - Let parents know how they can be involved in the school
 - Help parents work together with teachers to make sure students making progress.
 - Provide materials, information and other resources to help parents with home learning activities..
 - Find out from parents what's the best way to reach out to all parents so they can be involved as equal partners



Remember...

Parent involvement has always been an integral part of Title I. Under the new law, one of the new purposes of Title I is to ensure that funds are used to *promote* parent involvement. Parents should take full advantage of the opportunities for involvement that the law provides.

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.

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