



Did You Know...?

#7

What *No Child Left Behind* Says About School-Parent Compacts

No Child Left Behind Act requires every school that receives Title I funds to have a school-parent compact (agreement). It must be developed with and approved by parents of participating Title I children. It must describe how educators and parents will work together to improve student achievement. It should also state the specific responsibilities of parents, school staff and students. Ask your school principal if your child's school receives Title I funds!

What can I do?

Ask to see your school's parent compact. Make sure it covers what is needed to help children served by Title I to achieve state standards. The compact should tell how...

- *School will help Title I students learn.*
 - Will children get extra help as soon as they need it? What kind of help will they receive?
 - Is the goal of this help to make sure they catch up fully with their classmates?
 - How will the school provide teachers with training and new resources to help students?
 - How will the school ensure that it provides high-quality curriculum and instruction to all students?

- *Teachers will inform parents about their children's progress and show families how to help their child at home*
 - At home activities might include providing a good space to study and do homework or making sure students attend school regularly.
 - The law says that elementary schools must hold parent teacher conferences at least once a year. Teachers must make frequent progress reports to parents.
- *Parents and teachers will work together.*
 - *The law says that parents must have reasonable access to staff.*
 - *Parents should have opportunities to take part in class activities, observe their child's classroom and volunteer in meaningful ways.*



Communication is the key to building effective partnerships.

Under No Child Left Behind, Title I schools are required to:

- Conduct an annual meeting for Title I parents to inform them about the policy, their rights under Title I, and how they can be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
- Provide parents with timely information about Title I school programs, school curriculum, assessments used by the school to measure student achievement, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Respond quickly to parent requests for opportunities to meet regularly and participate in decisions about the education of their children.
- Seek parent comments about the effectiveness of the Title I program. If parents are dissatisfied with the school's Title I program plans, these comments are to be included in the report to the school district.
- Inform parents of the existence and purpose of Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRC) to provide training, information, and support to parents and those who work with parents, districts, and schools. *Parents Reaching Out is the PIRC for New Mexico.*

National PTA offers a set of researched based guidelines as a foundation for district policies and school-parent compacts. Visit the PTA website: www.pta.org

***National PTA
National Standards for
Parent/Family Involvement Programs***

I: Communicating

Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

II: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

III: Student Learning

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

IV: Volunteering

Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

V: School Decision Making and Advocacy

Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

VI: Collaborating with Community

Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning



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