

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

The term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

Through this policy, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parent of each child in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication. The Parental Involvement Plan shall reflect the Board's commitment to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

1. cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
2. providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools; ^{1,2}
3. providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; ^{1,2}
4. providing coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ²

B. **Effective Communication**

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{1,2}
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{1,2}
5. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ²
6. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Michigan's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{1,2}
7. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{1,2}

C. **Volunteer Opportunities**

1. providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ²
2. supporting other needs, such as transportation and child care, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events. ²

D. **Learning at Home**

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2}
2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;
3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ¹

E. **Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy**

1. involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning;²
2. involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families.^{1,2}

F. **Collaborating with the Community**

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources;^{1,2}
2. coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.^{1,2}

Implementation

The Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The plan will be distributed to all parents and students through publication in the Student Handbook or other suitable means. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.

¹Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

²Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

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Introduction

Madison School District's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy is based upon the belief that supporting partnerships between families and the school is essential to improve the school and reinforce the importance of student achievement. The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the home and school and the student's parents and family. Such partnership between the home and school, and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children, generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. The term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

Through this policy, the Board directs the establishment of a Parental Involvement Plan by which a school-partnership can be established and provided to the parents of each child in the District. The plan must encompass parent participation, through meetings and other forms of communication.

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Policy

It is the policy of Madison School District to include parents, as appropriate, in decision-making, planning, advising, and implementing activities to improve academic quality and student performance. Parent and family involvement means parents and families participate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The Madison School District Parent Engagement Policy is consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

A. Expectations for Parents/Families

Madison School District strives to maximize parent and family involvement by implementing programs, activities, and procedures that emphasize effective parent/family and school collaboration and shared responsibility for high academic achievement and student success. These initiatives will be planned and implemented in meaningful consultation with parents and families of participating children with the intention of enhancing both schools' and parent and families' capacities for strong involvement. Finally, Madison School District aspires to develop and maintain the capacity for productive parent/family and school partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community.

B. Shared Responsibility

1. Madison School District will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities that improve student academic achievement and school performance using:
 - a. Local, State, and National School Data
 - b. Title I Allocation
 - c. Budget Development
 - d. School Improvement Teams

2. Madison School District will develop and conduct parent and family involvement annual evaluations. The evaluations will be distributed to parents to provide input regarding content and effectiveness of the parent and family involvement policy.

The evaluations will include identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities, paying particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The findings will then be used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.

3. Madison School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A programs with other programs, when appropriate, such as:
 - a. Holding parent involvement activities to educate and train parents;
 - b. Holding annual kindergarten roundup for incoming kindergarten parents;
 - c. Translating materials in a language that parents of participating children can understand; and
 - d. Making parent activities available to all interested parents

C. **Collaboration**

1. Madison School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of ESEA:
 - a. Parents will have the opportunity to participate in the development, review, and revision of the district-wide parental involvement policy through focus groups, workshops and personal interviews.
 - b. Parents will meet at least two times per year to provide advice on matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A.

2. Madison School District will take the following actions to involve parent and families in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. Perform a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) to assess Title I part A Program effectiveness and assist in programmatic revisions;
 - b. Involve parents to regularly review school and district programs and make recommendations for program improvements;
 - c. Jointly develop with parents of participating students a School-Parent Compact that outlines how parents, staff, and students will develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards, Madison Elementary School and Madison Middle School will review the School-Parent Compact during Parent Teacher Conferences;
 - d. Convene an annual Title I meeting outlining the use of Title I funds and requesting parent input in order to meet the needs of Title I students; and
 - e. Ensure that each school has a parental involvement plan, which meets the requirements of Section 1118 of ESEA.

D. **Capacity Building**

1. Madison School District will build the schools' and parent and families' capacity for strong parent and family involvement through the following activities specifically describes below:
 - a. In partnership with its Title I, Part A schools, Madison School District will provide training to parents and families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - 1) State academic content standards
 - 2) Michigan Education Assessment System

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- 3) How to monitor their child's progress
 - 4) How to work with educators to effectively communicate with parents
- b. With the assistance of its schools, Madison School District will provide materials and training using technology, as appropriate, to help parents and families work with children to improve academic achievement.
- c. With the assistance of its schools, parents, and families, Madison School District will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and others staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners by:
- 1) Meeting with school representatives to coordinate the planning and implementation of parental involvement activities to enhance effective communication
 - 2) Assisting schools with translation of materials as needed
 - 3) Providing tools to teachers, principals, administrators, and local school staffs on how to effectively communicate with parents
 - 4) Establishing a communication process/system
- d. To the extent feasible and appropriate, Madison School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement programs with preschool and other programs, and conduct activities that will encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children.

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- e. Madison School District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent and family programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents and families of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand:
 - 1) Translate materials and information in a language that parents and families can understand
 - 2) Make available translated materials and information; and
 - 3) Provide workshops to parents with information provided in a language that parents and families can understand
 - f. Madison School District will involve parents and families with activities under this section.
2. Madison School District will involve parents and families in the activities of the schools served under this part by:
- a. Providing opportunities for parents to participate in the development of district events and activities;
 - b. Creating opportunities for parents serving on different committees to provide feedback and input on all District activities;
 - c. Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part AS funds if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
 - d. Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care cost, to enable parents and families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;

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- e. Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- f. Maximizing parent and family involvement and participation by arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers and/or other staff who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- g. Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent involvement;
- h. Establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs, and
- i. Developing partnerships with community-based, faith-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.

Adoption

The concepts in this Madison School District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy have been developed jointly with, and agreed upon, by parents of students participating in Title I, Part A programs. The required parental involvement activities will be implemented to the extent ESEA funds such requirements under 20 U.S.C. 6318. Madison School District will make this policy available for parents of participating Title I, Part A students on its adoption.

Sec. 1112, 1118 ESEA
M.C.L. 380.1294

Revised 9/16/13

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