

Parent Involvement Policy

Middleborough Public Schools

Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy

- A. Each school receiving Title 1 funds shall, by October 10th of each school year, send home in the Tuesday folder a notice to the parents of each eligible child, in clear, easy to understand language, informing parents:
 - 1. About the nature of the Title program
 - 2. That parents have the right to participate and be involved in the planning, development, operation, evaluation and improvement of the Title 1 program.
 - 3. That an initial meeting will be held for all such parents in order to discuss the possible form of parent consultation and involvement.
 - 4. Of the time and place of such meetings, which shall be selected in a manner designed to encourage maximum attendance.
- B. At the initial Title 1 Orientation meeting, school staff shall:
 - 1. Explain the nature of the program at each school.
 - 2. Promote understanding between parents and school personnel.
 - 3. Describe the rights of parents and the obligations of school staff as set forth in Title 1 and this policy concerning parent involvement.
 - 4. Explain that one of the purposes of the meeting is for parents and Title 1 staff to determine what mechanisms they wish to propose for implementing parent involvement, including the Parent Advisory Council.
 - 5. State that written copies of information about the program, including federal statute and regulations, any applicable state or local laws or regulations, and current and prior program applications and evaluations are available.
 - 6. Provide information which will help build the capacity of parents for strong parental involvement and participation in the educational process.
 - 7. Review the Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy.
 - 8. Review the School-Parent Compact.
- C. Parents and Title 1 staff shall participate in a Parent Advisory Council for the purpose of consulting on topics that include: a) needs assessment, b) determination of program goals and objectives, c) determination of educational strategies, d) implementation of projects, e) development of program applications, and f) program evaluations.
- D. School staff shall provide a full and timely response to any parent recommendations concerning the program and, to the extent that such recommendations are rejected,

shall explain the basis for their decision. If the recommendation is made in writing, the response shall be in writing.

- E. School staff shall be prepared to offer, upon request, such support and resources as are needed for effective and full parent consultation and involvement including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Reasonable access to meeting space, necessary materials, available communications facilities, and clerical and other support staff.
 - 2. An ongoing and effective program of training for parents which provide educational opportunity for parents to support the learning of their children, programs to be developed in consultation with parents, including needed literacy training not otherwise available to help parents with their child's achievement, parent assistance and training concerning the No Child Left Behind Act, state content and performance standards, state and local assessments, Title 1 legal requirements for the program, how the Title program actually operates, the rights and responsibilities of parents, and how parents can work effectively with each other and with the school in developing and providing parent consultation and involvement.
 - 3. Provisions to parents on request, in a timely manner, of proposed and final projected applications, needs assessments documentation, district plans, budgetary information, evaluation data, state, federal, and local statutes, regulations and guidelines, and any other information needed for full, effective, and informed parent involvement.
 - 4. Opportunities to request according to school procedures to view the operation of the Title 1 program, including classroom visits, in order to share in the responsibility of the learning of their children and to acquire the information and experience needed for meaningful consultation.
 - 5. Opportunities for the parents to be involved in the planning of the Title 1 programs (such as the Family Evening Programs), home learning activities with their children, and the coordination and integration of parent involvement programs and activities with other programs such as Headstart.
 - 6. A budget sufficient to fully fund the parent activities.
- F. In developing methods and policy guidelines for parent consultation, parents and school staff shall conduct a review of parent consultation to determine the causes of any barriers to full and effective parent involvement. This information shall then be used to review and revise the methods and policies for consultation in order to increase the effectiveness of parent consultation.