

Dover Public Schools
ESSA Consolidated Grant
District Wide Parent Involvement Policy

Board of Education
Adoption Date: October 17, 2017

PART I: General Expectations

The Dover Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Dover Public School District will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the Dover Public School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The Dover Public School District will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Dover Public School District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency and parents with disabilities including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The Dover Public School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Dover Public School District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II: Description of How The Dover Public School District Will Implement Required District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

1. The Dover Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

The district-wide parental involvement plan is developed based upon the agenda, minutes, and feedback provided by each of the school's Title I parental involvement meetings. In addition, a member of the central office administration attends multiple Title I parental involvement meetings during the course of the year to ensure there is a direct correlation between the district-wide parental involvement policy and the parental involvement policies of the schools.

2. The Dover Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

The district ensures that parents are involved in the process of school review and improvement by closely monitoring each school's implementation of its Title I parental involvement programs and ensuring that all ESSA mandates are followed.

Examples of district-level oversight include, but are not limited to:

- *Schools' submission of all Title I parental involvement agendas, sign-in sheets, and participant surveys to the Federal and State Programs Administrator for review.*
- *Schools' submissions of Title I parental involvement policies and school-parent compacts to the Federal and State Programs Administrator.*
- *Schools' submission of Schoolwide Plans to the Federal and State Programs Administrator.*

3. The Dover Public School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

A district website is maintained and updated regularly as a means of communicating with parents and/or stakeholders about upcoming events and activities. Additionally, board of education agendas, presentations, and social media are utilized as a means of informing parents about school programs and student achievement.

4. The Dover Public School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:

Parental involvement strategies will be coordinated with other ESSA (Title IIA, Title III, and Title III Immigrant) and IDEA programs when possible.

5. The Dover Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

After each parent event an evaluation tool will be distributed to allow parents to provide feedback. The district will also analyze parental involvement data gathered by the schools and use that information to improve this policy.

6. The Dover Public School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

Examples of the types of strategies that will be implemented are:

- *Parent conferences and frequent communication via email, phone or face-to-face meetings.*
- *PARCC Parent Information Sessions*
- *Community Math Night*
- *Family Literacy Nights*
- *Community Science Night*
- *Back-to-School Night*
- *Financial Aide Workshops*
- *Technology Nights*
- *Making required ESSA parental notifications available on the district website*
- *District-wide Art Show*
- *Board of Education Presentations*

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

Possible materials and training include but are not limited to:

- Family Literacy Nights
- STEAM Nights
- *Distribution of Monthly Newsletters*
- *PARCC Information Meetings*
- *Guest Speakers/ Performers*
- *Summer Bridges Workshops*
- *Orientation Programs*

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and

utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

Possible training sessions include but are not limited to:

- *District Mentoring Program*
- *In-service Day Programs*
- *New Teacher Orientations*
- *District and School Professional Development Plans*
- *Administrative Council Meetings*
- *Faculty Meetings*
- *Professional Learning Communities*
- *Grade Level Meetings*
- *Department Meetings*

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Possible strategies include but are not limited to:

- *Assist in the planning, conducting and planning of home-school connection activities.*
- *Coordinating programs such as a District-wide Art Night.*
- *Conducting appropriate meetings for specific student and parent population groups.*
- *Ensuring schools develop and implement appropriate parent meetings at key transition points such as pre-kindergarten orientation, kindergarten orientation, middle school orientation, and high school orientation.*

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format,

including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Bilingual Communication including but not limited to: report cards, progress reports, emails, newsletters, postcards, letters to the home, announcements, and school staff who are able to converse with parents in both English and Spanish.

PART III. Discretionary District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

1. The Dover Public School District, in consultation with its parents, will support children's academic achievement by implementing the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:
 - pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
 - in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times;
 - provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.