

SUMMARY

The board of education believes that the education of children is an ongoing cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. School system officials shall strive to support parents and provide parents with opportunities to become involved in the programs offered by the Title I schools. The board encourages parents to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the school system's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards.

Buncombe County Schools builds capacity for strengthening parental involvement by:

1. Helping parents, school staff and community volunteers understand the importance of parent involvement
2. Helping parents understand national, state and local standards
3. Sending information and communication to parents in an easy to understand format
4. Providing materials and training to parents to assist with their child's education
5. Including parents on School Councils, School Improvement Teams, and District Parent Councils
6. Inviting parents to conference with teachers about their children's school performance, to attend meetings to discuss programs and activities, and to consult in the design and implementation of programs particularly those supported with Title I funds
7. Encouraging parents to volunteer in and visit classrooms
8. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies of the district and schools with parental involvement strategies of other programs
9. Involving parents in the activities of schools
10. An annual review of this policy and of the strategies for parental involvement occurs annually in collaboration with parents, school and district staff.

This summary of the Title I Parent Involvement Policy will be distributed each year in a printed version to parents of Title I schools with a link and/or information how the whole policy can be accessed.

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A. DEFINITION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

For the purposes of this policy and the Title I program, the term “parental involvement” means the participation of parents and guardians in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

1. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
2. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
3. 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; and
4. that the school system engages in activities to support parental involvement in the Title I programs.

B. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they meet the school system’s challenging academic standards. The Title I program provides instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program. When applicable, students must be selected to receive Title I services based on objective criteria that are consistent with federal and state requirements, such as standardized test scores, teacher judgment, and results of pre-school screening and home-school surveys.

Qualified Title I schools will operate as school-wide programs or targeted assisted programs based upon federal eligibility criteria. School-wide programs will utilize a comprehensive school improvement process enabling schools to serve all students in the school. Targeted assistance programs will provide services to eligible students in the school having the greatest need for assistance.

Both school-wide and targeted assistance programs shall be based on effective means of improving student achievement and shall include strategies to support parental involvement.

C. ANNUAL MEETING

Each year, Title I parents must be invited to an annual meeting, at which time parental rights will be explained, programs and activities provided with Title I funds will be discussed, and input will be solicited. In addition, all parents will have an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parental involvement policies

and plans. Data collected from these findings will be used to revise Title I programs and parental involvement plans.

D. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS

The board believes that the involvement of Title I parents in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff and all school system personnel shall strive to involve parents in activities throughout the school year.

The superintendent shall ensure that this system-level parental involvement policy is developed with, agreed upon with and annually distributed to parents of participating students. In addition to the system-level parental involvement policy, each school participating in the Title I program shall jointly develop and annually distribute to parents a school-level written parental involvement policy that describes the means for carrying out school-level policy, sharing responsibility for student academic achievement, building the capacity of school staff and parents for involvement and increasing accessibility for participation of all Title I parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. School-level plans must involve parents in the planning and improvement of Title I activities and must provide for the distribution to parents of information on expected student proficiency levels and the school's academic performance.

School officials will invite appropriate school personnel from private schools to consult on the design and development of its programs in order to provide equitable services to students enrolled in private schools. The superintendent or designee will establish procedures to achieve timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials in accordance with federal law.

In addition, school system officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

1. involve parents in the joint development of the Title I Program and the process of school review and improvement by including parents on the school advisory committee and committees that review the Title I program;
2. provide coordination, technical assistance and other support from various central office departments necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
3. build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by collecting and disseminating information on effective parental involvement techniques;
4. ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a format, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;

5. assist parents and parental organizations by informing parents and parental organizations of the existence and purpose of the North Carolina Parent Information and Resource Center;
6. coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parental involvement activities in other programs, such as Head Start, and similar programs;
7. with the involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school system parental involvement policies and program in improving the academic quality of the school;
8. strive to eliminate barriers to parental participation by assisting parents with disabilities and parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, are migratory, or have other backgrounds or characteristics that may affect participation;
9. provide assistance to parents of participating Title I children in understanding the state's testing standards, the assessments used, Title I requirements and all national, state and local standards and expectations through such efforts as community-based meetings, sending information home, newsletters, workshops and newspaper articles;
10. design a parent–student–school staff compact that sets out respective responsibilities in striving to raise student achievement and explains how an effective home/school partnership will be developed and maintained;
11. with the assistance of parents, ensure that teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff are educated in the value of parents as partners in the educational process and understand how to work with, communicate with and reach out to parents as equal partners in education;
12. distribute to parents information on expected student proficiency levels for their child and the school's academic performance, and provide materials and training to help parents monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve achievement through such methods as technology or literacy training;
13. coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs with pre-school programs and conduct other activities in the community that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their child;
14. strengthen the partnership with agencies, businesses and programs that operate in the community;
15. ensure that parents are involved in the school's Title I activities; and
16. provide such other reasonable support for Title I parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

E. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

School system officials and Title I school personnel shall provide effective notice of the following information as required by law. The notice must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

(BCS does not use Title I, Part A funds for LEP programs.)

1. System Report Card and School Progress Review

- a. Each year, school system officials shall disseminate to all parents, schools and the public a school system report card containing aggregate information, including, but not limited to, student achievement (disaggregated by category), graduation rates, performance of the school system and teacher qualifications.
- b. Each year, school system officials shall disseminate to all parents, schools and the community the results of the LEA's yearly progress review of each school.

2. Teacher Qualifications

- a. Each year, school system officials shall notify parents of Title I students of the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child (see policy 7820, Personnel Files).
- b. The principal or designee of a Title I school shall provide timely notice informing parents that their student has been assigned to or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified" as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act.

3. Parental Rights and Opportunities for Involvement

Each year, the principal or designee of a Title I school shall provide notice to parents of the school's written parental policy, parents' right to be involved in their child's school and opportunities for parents to be involved in the school.

(NO LONGER REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF ESEA WAIVERS)

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to implement the requirements of this policy.

Legal References:

20 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 200; 20 U.S.C. 7801(32) Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended

U.S. Department of Education approval of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request (May 29, 2012);
TCS-R-000 State Board of Education Policy

Cross References:

Policy 1310/4002	Parental Involvement
Policy 3000	Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program
Policy 3100	Curriculum Development
Policy 7820	Personnel Files

Adopted: March 7, 2013

Takes the place of Policy 607 and Administrative Regulation 607