

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Coventry, Rhode Island

Title I and Parent/Community Involvement Policy

PURPOSE: In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).

PART I.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Coventry Public Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The 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 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 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 school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, 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.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The 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 school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that District 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.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Coventry Public Schools 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.
 - *Regularly scheduled parental involvement advisory meetings scheduled through the building based Parent Involvement Coordinator.*
 - *Conducting an annual review/revision of the District parent involvement policy.*

- *Soliciting feedback through an open public meeting of the Coventry School Committee prior to adoption of the District parent involvement policy.*
- *Soliciting feedback by posting a draft of the District parent involvement policy on the District web page for a period of two weeks prior to School Committee adoption.*

2. The Coventry Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA.

- *Including parent/community involvement as an objective in each school's annual School Improvement Plan.*
- *Including parents and community members on School Improvement Teams.*
- *Inviting parents to annual school Title I events and activities.*
- *Conducting surveys after all parent involvement activities to solicit information about strengths and needs of each program presentation.*

3. The Coventry Public Schools 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 part-time building based Parent Involvement Coordinator is paid to facilitate parental involvement activities in each of Coventry's Title I eligible schools.*
- *Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation, food, and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.*
- *Allocate resources to parent involvement activities beyond minimum requirements.*
- *Conduct activities at times identified as reasonable and convenient for families, i.e. Saturdays or evenings.*

4. The Coventry Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as: Head Start, Parents as Teachers, public preschool programs, private schools and Coventry's Department of Human Services by:

- *Coordinating written materials to parents regarding these programs. Information is shared through the Parent Involvement Coordinator and the Child Outreach Coordinator.*
- *Conducting regular and meaningful consultation with the private schools to include participation of eligible private school students in the District's parent involvement activities.*
- *Maintaining open lines of communication with the Department of Human Services for the purpose of identifying families experiencing homelessness and coordinating school and town resources.*

5. The Coventry Public Schools 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.

- *Conducting surveys after all parent involvement activities to solicit information about strengths and needs of each program presentation.*
- *Using survey results to identify barriers and training needs so as to address concerns and increase family participation in parent involvement activities.*
- *Conducting end of year parent meetings with families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Reviewing formative and summative assessment data at the District, school, and classroom level.*
- *Conducting at least quarterly meetings with the District Title I staff.*
- *Considering input from all formal and informal evaluations to craft yearly parent involvement plans.*

6. The Coventry Public Schools 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:

This goal will be accomplished by:

- *Convening the parents of Title I eligible students at a public meeting regarding the federally funded program.*

- *Inviting parents to annual School Report Nights and Title I information sessions.*

- *Notifying parents regularly of a child's progress in supplemental or alternative placement programs – both formally in writing and informally through parent-teacher conferences.*

- *Providing workshops/training for parents to increase their involvement with the success of school programs. Training topics may include assessment, understanding Common Core State Standards Expectations, Next Generation Science Standards and/or other areas as needed.*

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:

- *Providing workshops/training for parents to increase their involvement with the success of school programs and to assist their children with educational progress. Training topics may include how to help with homework, strategies to support developing readers at home and/or other areas as needed.*

- *Providing materials such as free resources from the United States Department of Education to families of Title I eligible students.*

- *Distributing a monthly newsletter, in the home language, to families of Title I eligible students.*

- *Distributing free books, summer resource packets, and community resources to families of Title I eligible students.*

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:

- *Coordinating regularly scheduled meetings with the building based Parent Involvement Coordinator and Title I staff at each school to discuss family outreach practices.*

- *Conducting at least quarterly meetings of the District Title I staff.*

- *Coordinating with other programs, such as Parents as Teachers, to help families become active members of the educational program for their children.*

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Parents as Teachers, public preschool programs, private schools and Coventry's Department of Human Services, 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:

- *Collaborating with the Child Outreach Coordinator to identify families and distribute appropriate resources to parents of eligible children.*
- *Invite eligible children to parent outreach activities sponsored by the Coventry Public Schools.*
- *Maintaining open lines of communication with the Department of Human Services for the purpose of identifying families experiencing homelessness and coordinating school and town resources.*
- *Use data collected from Creative Curriculum to share with Title I staff for the purposes of identification and selection into the Title I program.*

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:

- *Distributing a monthly newsletter, in the home language, to families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Using traditional mail, e-mail and a resource web site to communicate with families of Title I eligible students.*
- *Provide reminder phone calls prior to all school-based parent involvement activities.*

PART III.

ADOPTION

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy was originally developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the agenda minutes of the School Committee meeting held on March 2, 2010. At that time there was a first reading, as required by School Committee policy. In the fall of 2015 the policy was reviewed by the District leadership team and sent with the Title School building Principals for and updates and feedback from staff and parents. The school district will distribute this policy annually to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

References:

First Read: December 8, 2015

Second Read: January 12, 2016

Adopted: January 12, 2016