

# FACT SHEET



## Parental Involvement / Family Engagement

### Parental Involvement per the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

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

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- 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
- Other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA (Parental Involvement).

### Requirements for Title I districts and schools

The following must be developed and implemented: District Parental Involvement Policy; School Parental Involvement Policy; School-Parent Compact; and Building Capacity for Involvement.

#### District and School Parental Involvement Policies

The following must be incorporated in the policies:

- PTA National Standards –
  - Welcoming all families in the school community
  - Communicating effectively
  - Supporting student success
  - Speaking up for every child
  - Sharing power; and
  - Collaborating with community
- Involve parents in developing district improvement plans;
- Offer technical assistance and coordination to help schools plan parental involvement activities to improve student and school academic performance;
- Build school and parent capacities for strong parent involvement;
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with other programs, such as Head Start and any early childhood program that currently exists in your district; and
- Annually evaluate, with parents, the effectiveness of the policy in academically improving district schools.

#### School-parent compact

The following should be included in the compact:

- Describe a responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to meet the state’s challenging student academic achievement standards;
- Describe the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their child’s learning such as:
  - Monitoring attendance
  - Homework completion
  - Television watching
  - Volunteering in their child’s classroom, etc.; and
- Address the importance of establishing ongoing, effective communication between teachers and parents through, at a minimum:
  - Annual parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools;
  - Frequent progress reports to families on student academic progress; and
  - Reasonable access to staff and opportunities to volunteer, observe, and participate in classroom activities.

### Annual Requirements

Each school served under Title I, Part A must convene an annual meeting to explain the requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. Schools must invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting and encourage them to attend.

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### Parents Right-to-Know:

The notification should explain that parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher, including, at a minimum, the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

### Additional required information

In addition to the information that parents may request, a school that receives Title I funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part; and
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

### Language

Information provided to parents with limited English proficiency, must be provided "to the extent practicable," in a language parents can understand

- This means, whenever practicable, written translations of printed information must be provided to parents with limited English proficiency in a language they understand.
- If written translations are not practicable, it is acceptable to provide information to limited English proficient parents orally in a language they understand.

For more information, contact:

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### District Level Parental Involvement Activities

- Not less than 90 percent of the funds reserved shall be distributed to schools served under this part.
- A district with a Title I, Part A allocation of \$500,000 or more is required to spend at least one (1) percent of its allocation for district and school-level parental involvement activities, including family literacy training and training to enhance parenting skills.
- Districts with allocations of \$500,000 or less are also responsible for implementing parental involvement activities, although no minimum allocation is required.

### Parent Involvement in Use of Funds

- The district must involve parents of Title I, Part A participating children in decisions about how it allots to schools the funds the district has reserved for parental involvement activities.
- The involvement of parents should be in a manner consistent with the definition of parental involvement.
- A district may choose to use its district-wide parent advisory council (if it has chosen to establish one) to provide advice on this and other matters relating to Title I, Part A programs.

### Activities under section 1116(a)(3)(C)

- The law is clear that 90 percent of the one percent of Title I, Part A allocation the district reserves for parental involvement under section 1116 must be distributed among the district's schools, and the parents of those schools must be involved both in deciding how those funds will be allotted, and once allotted, how they will be spent.
- Parents of children receiving Title I, Part A services and school officials may decide at the school level to pool their individual resources to pay for district-level parental involvement activities, such as a parent resource center.

### Resources

- The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)/ [www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org).

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