

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Title I Parent Involvement Policy	Date Approved: December 16, 2003 November 21, 2006 December 16, 2008 January 25, 2011 January 17, 2012 Date Effective: November 21, 2006 December 16, 2008 January 25, 2011 January 17, 2012

1. PURPOSE

To establish a Title I Parent Involvement Policy that adheres to regulations stated in section 1118(a)(2) of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The policy shall provide the framework for organized, systematic, ongoing, informed and timely parental involvement in relation to decisions about Title I services provided.

2. POLICY

- A. The Superintendent of Schools will assure that Somerset County Public Schools will involve parents in the joint development of this plan by:
- 1) inviting Title I parents to be part of each school improvement committee with the task of developing parent involvement procedures.
 - 2) convening annual meetings to inform parents of their school's participation in the development of the Parent Involvement Plan and their right to be involved.
- B. Somerset County Public Schools will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs by:
- 1) providing materials and training not otherwise available to help parents with their child's achievement.
 - 2) educating school staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

- 3) ensuring to the extent possible, that information is sent home in language and form parents can understand.
 - 4) ensuring school-parent contacts are being used to outline responsibilities of the school staff, parents and students in striving to raise student achievement and explain how an effective home-school partnership will be developed.
- C. Somerset County Board of Education will build the schools' capacity for strong parental involvement by:
- 1) providing assistance to participating parents in such areas as understanding federal and state education goals, state content standards, student performance standards, and assessments
 - 2) encouraging the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that include a role for parents
 - 3) providing resources for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children
 - 4) encouraging meetings at a variety of times, such as morning and evenings, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities
 - 5) coordinating and integrating parental involvement activities with Head Start, as appropriate
 - 6) approving reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
 - 7) providing other reasonable supports for parental involvement as requested by parents
 - 8) providing opportunities for parent training through multiple formats on new resources as they become available in the county. Example: PowerSchool, EdLine
 - 9) providing materials and opportunities for training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement, such as math, literacy, and technology training.
- D. Somerset County Board of Education will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with programs such as Head Start and other federal and state programs by:
- 1) adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement

- 2) reviewing school level meeting minutes for the integration and coordination of parent involvement activities
- E. The Superintendent of Schools or her designee will conduct with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy as it relates to increased academic quality by:
 - 1) distributing an annual survey to solicit such information of all participating Title I parents, administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, and instructional assistants
 - 2) inviting participating Title I parents to an annual county level meeting to review and discuss parental involvement effectiveness and identify barriers to greater parent participation
- F. Somerset County Board of Education will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I by building parent capacity (Section C).

3. MONITORING OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The findings of the evaluation along with the combined data from the surveys and the minutes from the county level meetings will yield:
 - 1) recommendations to each participating school for parent involvement plan revisions
 - 2) suggestions for revising school improvement plans, as they relate to parent involvement

4. MASTER PLAN COORDINATION

Title I parent involvement activities will be included in the STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: Family and Community Involvement Strategy with specific representation and recognition.

5. PARENT INVOLVEMENT FUNDING

Somerset County Board of Education will ensure that a minimum of one percent of the total Title I allocation will be used for parent involvement activities and these funds will be spent at the school level.