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School Parental/Community Involvement

_____ School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general goodwill between the district and those it serves. Therefore, _____ School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to:

1. Foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among schools, parents, and the community to improve student achievement by:
2. involving parents and the community in the development of the school's long range *school* improvement and parental involvement planning process;
 - a. providing all parents with a copy of the school's parental involvement plan via the student handbook, Back-to-School Open House night, and/or school newsletters;
 - b. scheduling regular parent involvement meetings to explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
 - c. maintaining a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
 - d. educating school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
 - e. communicating to parents all available opportunities to participate in parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities, *including those activities specific to parents of limited English proficient students, students with disabilities, and/or gifted and talented students*. Such communication shall be, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand; and
 - f. locating and modifying other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our school.
3. build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement by:
 - a. designating a highly qualified, certified staff member to serve as a parent involvement facilitator;
 - b. training parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
 - c. providing parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The district may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents;
 - d. providing orientations for all parents interested in volunteering;
 - e. utilizing a variety of communication techniques to enhance parent participation;
 - f. implementing strategies that eliminate barriers that keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and childcare to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative when scheduling parent/teacher conferences; and
 - g. providing reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

4. ensure the continued improvement of the school's parental/community involvement program by:
 - a. conducting an annual parent survey requesting parental input on trainings and workshops provided throughout the year;
 - b. conducting, with the involvement of parents, community members, school administration, and certified and classified staff, an annual evaluation of its' parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation, identifying barriers to greater parent participation, and promoting higher student achievement; and
 - c. utilizing the findings from the evaluation process to make recommendations for parental involvement plan revisions and provide suggestions for designing school improvement policies as they relate to parental involvement.

5. provide notice and information under the "Parents Right to Know" requirements to all parents of students attending Title I, Part A schools, in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand by:
 - a. developing a School–Parent Compact annually that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards. A copy of the School-Parent Compact shall be provided to all parents during Back-to-School Open House night, parent/teacher conferences, and/or in the Parental Information Packets;
 - b. involving parents of children receiving Title I, Part A services in the development of the school's parental involvement plan and decisions regarding how the school's Title I, Part A Parental Involvement set aside funds are utilized;
 - c. hosting an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents of participating students, to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I, Part A program, its requirements regarding parental involvement, and the parents rights to be involved in the education of their child; and
 - d. involving parents in planning, reviewing and improving the school's comprehensive school improvement program and parental involvement policy in order to help ensure the school's continued improvement.

***This policy shall be part of a school's Title I, Part A plan and shall be distributed to parents of the school's students and provided, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand.**

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318 (a)(2),(A),(B),(D),(E) (NCBL Act of 2001, Section 1118)
 20 U.S.C. § 6318 (e)(1),(2),(3),(4),(5),(6),(8),(9),(10),(11),(13),(14) (NCLB Act of 2001, Section 1118)