

## PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

DeSoto ISD 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 and will provide information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, 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% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its 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; and*

*(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 existence and purpose of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the state.

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

1. DeSoto ISD 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:
  - All parents of students attending Title I schools, including parents of homeless, migrant, neglected and delinquent children and parents whose children are served by Title I and attending private schools, are given the opportunity to participate in the joint development of the LEA parent involvement policy either at the local school level by attending a Title I Planning Meeting or at the district level by attending the District Title I Parent Meeting.
  - Title I Parent Meetings are open to all parents of students participating in a Title I Program.
  - Title I Parent Meetings are held in both the morning and evening during the month of September.
  - Parent input from the local school Title I Planning Meetings, the District Title I Parent Meeting, and the Title I Annual Parent Survey are used to revise the district's Parent Involvement Policy.
  - For parents who are unable to attend the Title I Planning Meetings, opportunities are offered to review draft forms of the documents and provide input and feedback.
  - Parents are informed of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Protection of Pupil Rights Act (PPRA) and the Student Directory Information Disclosure to military/institutions of higher learning (high schools). These required Title I documents and parent notifications are distributed by each local Title I school, and are included in the Title I Parent Handbook and posted on district and local school websites.
  - All meetings are advertised to parents in at least two different ways, such as; sending flyers home with students, using the local schools' messaging systems, and posting the information on the schools' websites or marquees
  
2. DeSoto ISD will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - All parents of students participating in Title I Programs are given opportunities to review the plan at the local school-level during Title I Planning Meetings with school administration and local school Title I staff to provide feedback to the district.
  - Parents can review drafts of the plan by visiting the schools' main offices, Parent Centers and other central locations, to provide input.
  - Parents are able to review drafts of the plan by visiting the schools' websites.
  - Opportunities for parents to express concerns, ask questions or voice complaints are outlined in the LEA Complaint Procedures.
  
3. DeSoto ISD 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:
  - To fund the parent involvement programs at the district and school level, the Title I Office allocates funds for parent involvement based on the mandate contained in the ESEA. Not less than one percent (1%) of the GCPS Title I allocation is set aside for parent involvement.
  - District will offer a Parent/Family Academy which provides learning opportunities on becoming parent leaders in the schools.
  - District and school staff will participate in professional development for promoting family engagement and building parent capacity.
  - Additional opportunities to involve parents include: Title I Parent Workshops, volunteer programs and participation in school leadership teams such as the Title I Planning Team, PTA, Local School Councils, and the District Title I Parent Meeting.

4. DeSoto ISD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
  - PreK Round Up
  
5. DeSoto ISD 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.
  - A district-wide, annual survey is administered for parent input and feedback.
  - Title I Parent meetings are held at various sites and times to maximize parent participation so that parents have the opportunity to provide input regarding the policy.
  - In addition, parents can provide input through the District Title I Parent Meeting and at the local school Title I Planning Meetings to discuss the effectiveness of the Title I Program.
  - Parent input, along with survey results from local schools, are used to determine the effectiveness of the program; to identify barriers to parent participation; and to increase opportunities for parent participation.
  - All Title I meetings are documented with a printed agenda, attendance sign-in sheets, copies of multiple invitations such as flyers announcing the meeting, phone logs and school website postings.
  - Results and conclusions from the Local School Plan for Improvement Schoolwide Plan will be shared with parents as an opportunity to provide feedback on its effectiveness.
  
6. DeSoto ISD will build capacity of school staff and parents to create strong parental involvement programs, 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. The following strategies will be used:
  - 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:
    - administrators, faculty, and staff collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources and networks for parents and students,
    - all parent communications are provided in an easy-to-understand language,
    - annually, parents are notified of the academic status of Title I schools.
    - DeSoto ISD will maintain continuous communication with parents through multiple media sources, including GCPS and local school websites, local media, community and business partners, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, Parent Centers, newsletters, emails, signs and posters, telephone, and automated calling systems, and
    - parent meeting and workshop days, times and locations vary to accommodate parents' schedules and maximize parent participation,
    - translations for other languages may be provided upon request, and to the extent practicable,

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by

- Parents are informed at the Annual Title I Parent Meetings about the guidelines, purpose, goals and resources of the Title I Program
- Provide a Parent Center with a certified teacher who serves as the Parent Liaison to assist parents in checking out resources for parents to use at home.
- Parent Liaison will offer opportunities to teach parents skills and strategies both in workshop classes and in one-on-one settings so that parents may help their children at home.
- Parent Liaison maintains the Parent Center and offers flexible and extended hours for the Parent Center to ensure availability to parents.

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

- Identify staff and parental needs in formal and informal needs assessments.
- Provide training to all school faculty and staff on effective parent communication strategies.
- Ensure that school personnel see parents as equal partners in the educational process and encourage frequent two-way communication between the parents and school.
- Consider parents' input in planning the training for effective communication practices.
- Offer monthly opportunities for Parent Liaison to meet with District Parent Engagement supervisor and Program Specialists to participate in professional development.
- Encourage Parent Liaisons to network with each other to share best practices.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their child, by

- Desoto ISD heavily promoting and advertising pre-k and kindergarten registration in local newspapers and media platforms.
- The district providing all necessary paperwork for registration in a downloadable format on the District website.
- Local elementary schools coordinate with community child development centers to inform parents of the kindergarten registration process and to assist in the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parental involvement 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.

- All parent communications are provided in an easy-to-understand language. Translations and interpreters are available.
- Translations for other languages may be provided upon request, and to the extent practicable.
- DeSoto ISD maintains continuous communication with parents through multiple media sources, including GCPS and local school websites, local media, community and business partners, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, parent centers, newsletters, emails, signs and posters, telephone, and automated calling systems.

F. The school district will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

- Schools will utilize the data from the feedback forms and meeting/workshop evaluations provided to parents at each Title I meeting and event and those collected by school personnel at the conclusion of each activity.
- DeSoto ISD creates a Title I Survey which is offered electronically and via paper/pen each spring.
- Data collected from the Title I annual survey is analyzed to identify parents' needs and to determine if there are any barriers to their involvement.
- Data from these different forms is reviewed by Title I personnel including the Parent Engagement Supervisor and the Program Specialist.
- Using the data, the district determines which research-based strategies to implement for more effective parental involvement.
- This data is also used to determine the need to increase or amend the parent involvement budget, and revise the Title I Parent Involvement Policy and Calendar of Events.
- Depending upon parents' feedback, comments, and suggestions, the Title I Office may modify LEA sponsored events and activities for parents.