

**Linden Public Schools
Federal Programs
Title I Program**

**Family and Community Engagement:
District Parent Involvement Policy**

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
-Jane D. Hull

Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires each school district to establish expectations for parental involvement. The Linden Board of Education and its public schools recognize the important role parents have in the education of their child. The **Linden Public School District** agrees to adopt and implement the following statutory requirements of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) as its Title I Parent Involvement Policy:

I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its Title I schools to ensure the required school-level parent involvement policies meet Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out Title I parent involvement requirements, the school district and its Title I schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents. This includes parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. The school district and its Title I schools will provide information and school reports to all parents in an understandable and uniform format.
- If the district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the school district will submit parent comments the New Jersey Department of Education when it submits its plan for Title I.

- The school district will involve parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I 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 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 a critical 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.

- In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center (NJ PIRC), the school district will inform its Title I schools, Title I parents, and its parental organizations of their purpose and existence.

II. DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. The district will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parent involvement policy under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- *The school district will hold an annual Title I parent meeting where parents will assist in the development, agreement, and implementation of the district parent involvement policy.*
- *The school district will invite parents from Title I schools to participate in the development of the district Title I plan. Parents will provide suggestions for increased parent involvement and ideas on parent activities.*

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

- *The school district will share goals, assessment, and achievement data with parents.*
- *The school district will invite parents to participate in school review and improvement activities.*
- *The school district will survey parents on school review and improvement. The survey will be used to solicit ideas on school review and improvement.*
- *The school district will hold an annual Title I parent meeting to discuss the Title I plan, parent involvement activities, and solicit suggestions for school improvement.*

3. The district will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in building the capacity for strong parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- *Annually, the school district's Federal Programs staff will discuss parent involvement with administrators to enhance the coordination of activities and use of resources to improve student achievement and school performance.*
- *The district Federal Programs staff will provide annual training to Title I school administrators and staff on effective parent involvement strategies.*

4. The district will coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parent involvement strategies under the following other programs: such as [Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and Stat-operated preschool programs,] by:

N/A

5. The district will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation of parents in parent involvement activities. Particular attention will be made 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 parent involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent involvement and to revise, if necessary (with the involvement of parents), its parent involvement policies.

- *The school district will hold an annual Title I parent meeting to solicit feedback for suggestions.*
- *The school district will solicit parent input through the use of a district survey. Parent workshops may be scheduled based on survey results. Workshops will address the needs of the working community.*

- *The school district will consult with its Title I Parent Advisory Committee.*

III. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE SCHOOL BASED PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

In order to ensure the involvement of parents and support a partnership amongst its Title I schools and the community, the school district will implement the following activities that will build a stronger capacity for parent involvement and student academic achievement by:

1. The school district and its Title I schools will provide assistance to parents in understanding the following topics below:

- New Jersey's academic standards,
- New Jersey's student academic achievement standards,
- New Jersey state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators

- *The school district will hold an annual Title I parent meeting where the above topics will be discussed.*

2. The school district and its Title I schools will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children at home to improve academic achievement. In order to foster parent involvement, the following materials and training will be provided by the district and Title I schools:

- *The district and its Title I schools will provide parents with a copy of the Home-School Compact.*
- *The district and its Title I schools will provide parents with activities and support during Open-House / Back-to-School Night.*
- *The district and its Title I schools will provide parents with suggestions for improvement and increasing student achievement.*
- *The district and its Title I schools will provide workshops and training for parents utilizing topics such as:*

- *Home- School Connection*
- *Literacy Training*
- *Technology Training and Applications*
- *Improving communication between the parent and the child*
- *Effective Parenting Tips*
- *Mathematics and Language Arts (reading and writing) skill builders*

3. The school district, along with its Title I schools and parents will educate staff on how to effectively reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners in the school community by:

- *Providing district personnel with policies, materials, and trainings on effectively communicating and assisting parents.*
- *Working with all administrators, support personnel and teachers to effectively communicate with parents in a clear and understandable format.*
- *Utilizing Back-to-School Night as means to talk with parents in developing ways to improve communication.*
- *Utilize the Genesis parent portal as means to monitor and communicate with classroom teachers.*

4. In order to support and encourage the involvement of parents the district will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities in Title I, Part A with parent involvement strategies under the following other programs: such as [Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and Stat-operated preschool programs,] by:

N/A

5. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents in an understandable and uniform format:

- *Information disseminated to Title I parents will be in an understandable format and language via:*
 - *Flyers*
 - *District Website / School Webpage Portal*

- *Parent Letters*
- *By phone (Global Connect System)*
- *Other deemed necessary methods*

IV. ADOPTION

This District Parent Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children in Title I, Part A programs. At the beginning of the academic school year, this policy will be distributed to all parents of children participating in the Title I, Part A Program. This policy will be reviewed annually and modified as deemed necessary.

Adopted: September 6, 2012

Revisions: N/A

Re-Adoption: June 28, 2016