

# **DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

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The Dorchester County Public Schools believe that a cooperative and supportive partnership among the school, home, and community provides continuously improving educational programs, which enable all students to acquire the self-discipline, knowledge, and skills necessary to become creative, self-sufficient, lifelong learners and productive citizens. To encourage this partnership, the Dorchester County Public Schools will:

1. Provide various opportunities for parents, guardians and community members to participate in the shared decisions making process.
  - Schedule meetings at various times and locations to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in district and school-related activities.
  - Invite parents and community members to participate in district-level committees such as the District Parent Advisory Council, Curriculum Coordinating Committee, Minority Achievement Task Force, Special Education Citizens Advisory Group, etc.
  - Ensure each school convenes a Parent Advisory Committee that meets at least three times a year.
  
2. Involve parents in jointly revising and evaluating the Title I Parent Involvement Plan which supports the Dorchester County Public School Parent and Family Involvement Policy (Section 820.12 – School Community Relations Policy Code).
  - At least annually, invite parents from each Title I school to review, provide feedback, and revise the district-wide Title I Parent Involvement Plan.
  - Annually seek input and feedback on the district-wide Title I Parent Involvement Plan from the other various community/parent groups such as the Minority Achievement Task Force, District Parent Advisory Council, Judy Center Steering Committee, Special Education Citizens Advisory Group, etc.
  - Invite Title I parents to be part of each School Improvement Team with the task of developing parent involvement procedures.
  - Annually administer a parent survey to solicit opinions on the content and effectiveness of parent involvement within the county.
  
3. Provide coordination and technical assistance to schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance.
  - At a minimum, hold quarterly meetings, with school administrators to provide resources and materials to support the implementation of parent involvement activities.
  - Visit each school regularly to assure that their school-level parent involvement plans are being implemented and provide technical assistance as requested.
  - Ensure to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and format that parents can understand.

- Annually review school-parent compacts to ensure that the responsibilities of the school, staff, parents, and students encourage high expectations and student achievement, and explain how an effective home-school partnership will be developed.
  - Approve reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
4. Provide assistance to parents in understanding Maryland's academic content and student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements as well as how to monitor a child's progress to work with educators to improve student achievement.
- Distribute copies of the Dorchester County Public Schools Title I Parent Involvement Plan to all Title I students at the beginning of each school year as well as post it on the district's and each school's web page.
  - Maintain and update the DCPS website including information on Title I, state academic content and achievement standards, and state and local assessments.
  - Include the NCLB Title I requirements in the county's parent/calendar handbook.
  - As requested, present at school-level parent involvement activities to share information on Title I, state academic content and achievement standards, and state and local assessments
  - Distribute information regarding the Maryland Parent Information Resource Center.
5. Provide materials and training, in coordination with Title I school administrators, to help parents work with their children to improve achievement.
- Annually administer a Parent Interest Survey to help identify and design workshops that encourage and support parent involvement.
  - Use the DCPS website to provide tips for parents on how to support student learning at home.
  - Provide information to parents regarding the annual regional Parental Information Resource Center (PIRC) Conference.
  - Offer school-based parent outreach activities focused various topics such as on reading, math, state testing requirements, technology, etc.
6. Educate instructional staff, with parental assistance, in how to communicate and work with parents as equal partners, and how to coordinate parent programs that build ties between parents and schools.
- Analyze data from a Parent Interest Survey to identify suggestions for professional development topics for faculty and staff on how to communicate with and work with parents and equal partners.
  - Convene a District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) that meets at least twice annually to generate input into various issues related to building effective partnerships between parents and teachers.
  - Invite parental participation in the District Curriculum Coordinate Committee and Town Meetings to gain insights into parental opinions on how to improve instruction and student achievement.
7. Coordinate parent outreach activities with community agencies and other school programs such as the Sandy Hill District Judy Center, Healthy Families, Shore Up! Head Start, and Dorchester Infants and Toddlers Program.
- Develop and maintain a Memorandum of Understanding between DCPS and Shore Up! Head Start that outlines parent involvement activities.
  - Participate in the Judy Center Steering Committee and Healthy Families Advisory Board to communicate and coordinate parental involvement services
  - Meet regularly with the Coordinator of the Dorchester Infants and Toddlers Program to offer information and activities for parents in child development, nutrition, literacy, etc.