

BRUNSWICK PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN TITLE I

This district-level policy and regulations have been developed in cooperation with interested parents of students participating in the Brunswick School Department's Title I programs. The regulations provide an understanding of the shared responsibility of the school department and parents in improving students' academic achievement and school performance. The school principals will be responsible for distributing this policy to parents of students participating in the Brunswick School Department's Title I programs at their respective schools.

Because parent involvement is so important to a student's success in school, the Board encourages regular participation by parents in all aspects of Brunswick's Title I programs.

The Brunswick School Department provides opportunities for parent involvement that are aligned with the requirements of Title I programs set forth in law as follows:

1. The Brunswick School Department invites interested parents to join the school department:
 - In the development of the school-department's plan to help Title I students meet academic standards;
 - In reviewing the school's improvement;
 - In establishing effective and ongoing two-way communications between the Brunswick School Department, staff, and parent;
 - In training staff to work more effectively with families with diverse cultural backgrounds and/or barriers such as illiteracy or limited English proficiency.
2. The Brunswick School Department provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:
 - Providing information to parents about the Title I program and various assessments that will be developed or used to monitor student progress;
 - Providing district-level and school-level workshops to assist individual schools in planning and implementing improvement activities;
 - Seeking input from parents in developing workshops that will help them become more effective partners with the schools in encouraging academic achievement.

3. The Brunswick School Department promotes strong parental involvement by:
 - Engaging school parent groups to seek out and involve parents through their communications and informational meetings;
 - Actively cooperating with other agencies and community groups to furnish learning opportunities, to increase awareness of support services, and to distribute information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
4. The Brunswick School Department coordinates and integrates parent involvement strategies for Title I programs with those of other programs (such as Head Start), by:
 - Involving school system and building representatives from other programs to assist in identifying specific student population needs; and
 - Sharing appropriate data between programs to assist in developing new initiatives to improve student academic achievement.
5. The Brunswick School Department conducts, with the involvement of interested parents, an annual evaluation of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The findings will be used to design strategies for more effective parent involvement. The findings may also lead to revising the parent involvement plan by:
 - Evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy through a variety of means such as surveys, workshops, conferences, and informal meetings involving district and school administrators, teachers, and parents;
 - Identifying potential parental involvement plan changes.
6. The Brunswick School Department involves parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I by:
 - Keeping parents informed of the objectives of the Brunswick School Department's Title I programs;
 - Providing coordination for district, school, and Parent Group meetings and other events to create opportunities to facilitate parent participation; and
 - Promoting opportunities for parents as volunteers in the classroom, on field trips and assisting with other school activities;

- Identifying potential program improvements.

Each Title I school has a "School-Parent Compact" that outlines the manner in which parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend to inform them of the school's participation under Title I, to explain the rights of parents to be involved, and to encourage their involvement in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and parent involvement plan.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

The school will offer two other meetings during the school year, held at various times.

The building principal/designee will:

- Invite parents of participating children to the annual meeting and to other meetings held during the school year;
 - Provide an overview of Title I and the programs the school provides under Title I;
 - Explain the rights of parents of participating children in developing and reviewing the school's parent involvement policy, including the School-Parent Compact;
 - Provide a description and explanation of the Title I curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
 - Give parents an opportunity to ask questions about student achievement and school performance;
 - Respond to requests from parents for opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate (as appropriate) in decisions relating to the education of their children;
 - Encourage parents to provide feedback on the Title I program.
1. The school is responsible for providing a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students served under Title I to meet the State's academic achievement standards.
 2. Parents are asked to be responsible for supporting their children's learning by:
 - Monitoring their children's attendance;

- Providing assistance and encouraging their children to complete homework assignments;
 - Encouraging their children to ask for help from teachers or classroom aides (ed. techs., volunteers) when needed;
 - Talking with their children about the school day;
 - Reading to or with their children;
 - Monitoring their children's use of television and other electronic devices;
 - Volunteering in the classroom and for other school-related activities such as field trips;
 - Participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their children; and
 - Encouraging their children to participate in extracurricular community-based, after-school activities.
3. The school will address the importance of communication between parents and teachers on an ongoing basis by:
- Scheduling one or more parent-teacher meetings annually for parents of Title I students during which the School-Parent Compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - Providing frequent reports to parents on their children's progress;
 - Providing parents with reasonable access to staff to discuss issues relating to their children's learning;
 - Giving parents the opportunity to observe classroom activities; and
 - Responding to the parents' request for meetings to discuss their child's progress and learning.

Adopted: 10/13/04