

Instruction

Exhibit - District-Level Parental Involvement Compact

This District-level *Compact* provides an understanding of the joint responsibility of the District and parents/guardians to improve students' academic achievement and school performance. To that end, the District provides opportunities for parents/guardians involvement at the District level by:

1. The District involves parents/guardians in the joint development of the District's plan to help low-achieving children meet challenging achievement and academic standards (20 U.S.C. §6312), and the process of school review and improvement (20 U.S.C. §6316) by:
 - Establishing a District-level committee with parents/guardians liaisons from each building as well as representatives from other impacted programs, including Head Start.
 - Establishing meaningful, ongoing two-way communication between the District, staff and parents/guardians.
 - Developing a District newsletter to communicate to parents/guardians about the plan and seek their input and participation.
 - Training personnel on how to collaborate effectively with families with diverse backgrounds that may impede parents/guardians participation, e.g., illiteracy or language difficulty.
2. The District provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parents/guardians involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:
 - Providing ongoing District-level workshops to assist buildings in planning and implementing improvement strategies.
 - Establishing training programs for building liaisons to bring the communication and facilitation skills to the buildings they represent.
 - Providing information to parents/guardians about the various assessment tools and instruments that will be developed to monitor progress.
 - Seeking input from parents/guardians in developing workshops.
3. The District builds the capacity of schools and parents/guardians for strong parental involvement by:
 - Providing ongoing communication about the District-wide committee through District newsletters or other written or electronically communicated means.
 - Engaging the building PTO's to actively seek out and involve parents/guardians through regular communication updates and information sessions.
 - Utilizing PTO's to assist in identifying effective communication strategies based on their members' needs.
 - Providing a master calendar of District meetings to discuss pertinent topics.
4. The District coordinates and integrates parents/guardians involvement strategies under this *Compact* with parents/guardians involvement strategies under other programs, such as, the Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, Parents as Teachers program, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs by:
 - Involving District and program representatives to assist in identifying specific population needs.
 - Sharing data from other programs to assist in developing new initiatives to improve academic achievement and school improvement.

5. The District conducts, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parents/guardians involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background), and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parents/guardians involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parents/guardians involvement policies described in this section by:
 - Evaluating the effectiveness of the content and communication methods through a variety of methods, including: focus groups, surveys, workshops, and informal coffees with District and building administrative staff, parents/guardians, and teachers.
 - Identifying barriers to effective evaluation by language support or other assistance as needed.
 - Identifying potential policy and compact changes to revise and improve program(s).
6. The District involves parents/guardians in the activities of the schools served under Title I by:
 - Providing communication and calendar information to parents/guardians of upcoming meetings, discussions or events and encouraging their participation.
 - Providing Building Principal and PTO coordination of events.

■ [January 2014]