

NORTHERN LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT
TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Northern Lebanon School District, in consultation with parents, established this district wide parental engagement policy. This policy establishes the district's expectations for parental engagement and describes how the district will implement parental engagement activities.

Part 1. General Expectations

The Northern Lebanon School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement 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 each school building to ensure that the required school-level parental engagement 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 engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental engagement 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, including providing information and school reports required under section 111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, 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 one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement 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 engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental engagement 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;*
- D. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

Part II. Description of how Northern Lebanon School District will implement required district wide parental engagement policy components.

1. The Northern Lebanon School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of ESEA:

- Survey asking for parent input on Title I instruction, programs, etc. will be provided. Distributed at the end of the school year to parents of Title I students to determine how to use parent involvement set-aside funds (1%).

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

- School and district report cards are available upon request and alerting parents to the progress/performance in the district under the NCLB Act.

3. The Northern Lebanon School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in

planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- The Title I Coordinator will work closely with school and district administrators to ensure assistance and support are given to Title I, Part A schools.
- Monthly “Building Readers” newsletter sent home to parents and posted on website.
- Parent conferences in November
- Parent Night held in fall at central location in district.
- Annual Spring Parent Conference through Intermediate Unit 13.
- Parent Engagement /Building Policy Meeting(April/May)

4. The Northern Lebanon School District will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies in Part A with parental engagement strategies under the following other programs:

- Head Start
- Notifying parents of kindergarten registration through district newsletter and advertisements in local newspaper.
- Distribute kindergarten readiness skills

5. The Northern Lebanon School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental engagement 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 engagement 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 engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- The evaluation will be conducted in May of each school year
- The responsibility of conducting the evaluation will be reading specialists from each elementary building
- The role of parents will be to provide feedback and suggestions to the district

6. The Northern Lebanon School District will build the schools’ and parent’s capacity for strong parental engagement, 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, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will provide assistance to parents of children in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below:

- Pennsylvania academic achievement standards
 - District curriculum is available on the district website
 - Parent friendly terminology to explain curriculum materials.
 - PSSA and local assessments
 - Individual student academic assessment results from the State assessments will be presented to parents at Parent-Teacher conferences in November of each year.
 - Aimsweb data presented to Title I parents throughout the year.
 - MTSS
 - Individual building newsletters
 - Monitoring their child's progress
 - Parents are notified of student academic progress through trimester reports, trimester report cards, emails, notes and telephone calls from the student's teacher(s).
 - Title I progress reports sent in January and June.
 - How to work with teachers and reading specialists
 - Building newsletters
- B. The school district will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology to foster parental involvement, by:
- Information regarding Title I sponsored workshops and conferences are sent home on a regular basis.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of parents, provide staff development 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:
- All staff members in the school district are involved in professional development activities as required under Act 48.
 - All district staff members are encouraged to attend workshops and conferences to further their professional development.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head

Start, 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 children, by:

- District will conduct pre-kindergarten program in spring for students entering kindergarten in the fall
- District representative to attend Head Start February Parent meeting Day
- District representative to attend Lebanon County School Readiness Task Force meetings
- Family reading materials provided during school year

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent 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 material sent to the parents and/or community is first reviewed and approved by the building principal.
- Forms, meeting notices and newsletters are available in language other than English when requested.

Part III. Discretionary District Wide Parental Engagement Policy Components

In consultation with parents, the school district may choose to include additional paragraphs listing and describing other activities to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 118(e) of the ESEA:

- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental engagement
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities

- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

Part IV. Adoption

This District-wide Parental Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidence by yearly meeting agendas.

This policy was adopted by the Northern Lebanon School District on February 14, 2012. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in the fall of each school year. The policy can also be found on the district web site.

School Board President

Date

Superintendent

Date

Revised 11