

Revised:

903 TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School District #876 is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Reading grade level goals and math grade level goals for the children of School District #876 will be distributed to all parents in the district, with the expectation that *all* students will work toward these goals. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach those goals. School District #876 intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district to succeed.

II. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY

An Advisory Committee consisting of four parents, four teachers, and a principal will meet to develop our school district's Parental Involvement Policy. Our Advisory Committee will be chosen from volunteers after appropriate publicity about the need for volunteers. Special attention will be given to recruiting parents of children in the Title I program.

III. ANNUAL MEETING FOR TITLE I PARENTS

At the annual meeting for parents, which will be held in November, parents will be given copies of the district's current Parental Involvement Policy, and will be offered a chance to become involved in revising that policy as needed.

The annual meeting will be held for the convenience of parents. Language translation will be available when appropriate. Parents will be sent written notices about the meeting times.

IV. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

According to the new Title I regulations, each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents of children participating in the program. These compacts must outline how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Parents on the Advisory Committee will be involved in designing these compacts. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level.

Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a list of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals.

Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children, before signing it and having their children sign.

V. TYPES OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their children's education. This school district values both the at-home contributions and those, which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at a family meal are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership that will help all our children to succeed.

VI. MATCHING PROGRAMS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Each year, the school district will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of measures—including questionnaires sent home to parents—so that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Workshops and other programs will be available (some for parents, some for parents and children) to match the expressed needs. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools. Parents may call the District Office or their local school office at any time to express an interest in a particular sort of workshop or to make suggestions.

VII. STAFF-PARENT COMMUNICATION

Communication with parents about Title I will be included in a monthly newsletter. There will also be notices and activity packets sent home with children. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when they are concerned about a problem. They may also call the school office and ask for a translator for conferences. When appropriate, notices sent home would have language translation. Staff will be receiving training on how to improve home-school communication.

VIII. EVALUATION

Advisory Committees will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. Parents of children in the Title I program will be part of this group. The aim will be to evaluate the schools in this district, collecting information in a variety of ways, including visits to the schools and observations of classes.

There will be an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental involvement program, and parents will be asked for their input. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing, and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of annual review.

This commitment to family involvement has been approved by the School Board of District #876. The policy will be coordinated by the Title I supervisory staff and teachers throughout the district and promoted by building principals and other school staff.