

**Union County School System
Parent Involvement Policy
2009-2010**

The Union County Board of Education declares and assures the right of parents, of children participating in Title I funded activities, to be involved in the development of the Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement as set forth in Sections 1112 and 1116 of the No Child Left Behind Law of 2001 (NCLB) respectively. Through school councils, school improvement teams, input from parent groups, parent involvement representative or school-level parent involvement team, and publication of tests results, parents shall be involved in the joint development of the LEA plan, school improvement, and determining how funds are allotted for parent involvement activities should the school system be required to reserve one percent of Title I allocations for parent involvement.

Coordination, Technical Assistance & Other Support

To improve student achievement and school performance, Title I schools will be provided the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities. This assistance will be provided by the Title I Director, Parental Involvement Coordinator, other Title I staff, and other appropriate support personnel within and outside the school system.

Build Capacity For Parental Involvement

To build a capacity for strong family involvement and to support and encourage partnerships between schools, parents and community the Union County School System's Title I program will enable and assist schools to uphold the following standards.

These standards will be accomplished and maintained through training and instruction of both parents and educators carried out through community meetings, parent workshops, parent conferences, brochures and other media, PTA/PTO meetings, and other avenues of learning that is appropriate for the information to be conveyed.

1. The Union County School System recognizes that educators have the responsibility of helping parents understand information related to all aspects of their child's education. To the extent applicable and feasible, Title I and the local school parental involvement programs will assist participating parents in acquiring an understanding of State and local assessments and their results and how to monitor their child's progress.
2. Parents will be provided materials and training to improve their children's achievement through school-based initiatives and community agencies.
3. Educators, with the assistance of families, will collaborate to implement programs that educate personnel and promote the value of contributions of parents and build ties between parents and the schools.
4. Parent involvement programs and activities will be coordinated, as appropriate, with other agencies such as Head Start, the Pre-kindergarten program, Special Education Program, Title I, Part B; Migrant Education, Title I, Part C; Homeless and Title III; ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages).
5. The Union County School System will provide to Title I families information related to school and parent programs, meetings and any other activities. To the extent possible, this information will be provided in an understandable format and language used in the home. ESOL personnel will assist with translation as needed.

6. To improve the effectiveness of training, Title I parents may be involved in developing training activities for teachers, principals and other educators.
7. Title I funds may be used for literacy training for parents if all other available fund sources have been exhausted.
8. Title I funds may be used for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities such as transportation and child care costs.
9. Parent involvement policies shall include opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing (beginning at birth). These will be designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.
10. Parents may be trained to enhance and support the involvement of other parents.
11. Meetings and/or conferences involving parents will be arranged at a variety of times to maximize opportunities for increased parent participation in school-related activities.
12. The LEA or participating schools may adopt and implement research-based model approaches to improve parental involvement efforts.
13. A district wide advisory council may be established to provide assistance on parental involvement programs.
14. Businesses and community-based organizations may be provided information about how to partner with parents and schools. Schools will develop roles for these agencies and businesses.
15. The LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental activities as parents may request.

Coordination And Integration Of Strategies

Parent involvement strategies under Title I will be coordinated and integrated with other programs whenever appropriate and feasible. These strategies include joint planning of parent meetings, community awareness, and information provided to parents. School personnel shall collaborate with Head Start and Pre-kindergarten to share information that will facilitate a smooth transition into the appropriate educational setting. In addition, the Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator shall meet with Migrant Education, Homeless, Special Education, and Pre-kindergarten personnel to identify and provide materials for parents to use at home with students.

Annual Evaluation

The school system will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy to determine whether there has been increased participation and whether there are barriers to greater participation, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. This data will be obtained from parent, committee or school council meetings or through parent surveys. It will then be used to address the needs reflected in School Improvement Plans, School Compacts, and Parent Involvement Policies. Unsatisfactory parent comments regarding the school system plan will be collected and reviewed.