

POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

S.F.B. Morse Elementary School

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S.F.B. Morse Elementary Schools accepts the Poughkeepsie City District Parent and Family Engagement Policy 1900 as our own "Morse School Parent and Family Engagement Policy".


Mrs. Nadine Elting-Dargan
S.F.B Morse School Principal


Mrs. Nicole A. Penn

Parent and/or Community Member

"Excellence is our daily goal!"
Mustangs Rock!

Policy 1900 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The City School District of Poughkeepsie Board of Education believes that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. As stipulated in Section 1188 (d) (Parental Involvement) of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the City School District of Poughkeepsie will ensure that parental involvement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parental involvement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework "contracts" between parents and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parental involvement. The City-School District of Poughkeepsie will ensure that "...Each school served under Title 1, Part A shall jointly develop with parents for all children served... a school based-parent compact that outlines how parents, the school staff and students will share responsibility for improved achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

Title I Parental Involvement - District Level Policy

Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education, beginning in Prekindergarten. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parental involvement policies, as further required by the NCLB.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. This participation applies also to parents and teachers of students enrolled in any partnerships with the District, including, but not limited to all agencies who provided Universal Prekindergarten services to our students. At a minimum, parental involvement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- 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.

For purposes of this policy, parental engagement refers to the district's efforts to enable and support greater and more meaningful parent participation in the education of their children. Recognizing the positive effects that family literacy programs can have on breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, USDE has posited that "*Title I Part A funds may be used to support family literacy activities for eligible Title I children, including early childhood education, interactive literacy activities between parents and their children, and training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.*" Title I, Part a family literacy programs, however, should build on existing adult education and adult literacy services in providing the full range of family literacy services for participating families". Consequently, within the constraints identified below, parent engagement set aside fund may be used to support family literacy programs.

It is important to remember that Title I, Part A is designed to help low-achieving children meet challenging academic achievement standards (see section 1112(b) of the Title I statute). Therefore, the focus of any family literacy activities carried out with Title I funds should be to support family literacy activities that help parents, as the first teachers of their children, to become more effective participants in their children's education. While the literacy skills acquired through such activities may also help parents in their efforts to become economically self-sufficient, literacy services to help parents reach economic self-sufficiency should not be the primary purpose of family literacy services funded with Title I funds.

The term parents refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

District and school level Title I parental involvement programs, activities and procedures will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

As further required by the NCLB, parents of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents also will participate in the process for developing a school improvement plan when the school their child attends fails to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and is identified as a school in need of improvement. The City School District of Poughkeepsie will publicly report on the progress of the schools and will prioritize resources to assist schools in reaching State's standards. Parents and community members will be welcomed and encouraged to actively engage with the district in developing and implementing initiatives that lead to the academic success for all students.

Parent participation in development of district wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent involvement in the development of the district wide parental involvement plan:

- Holding meetings at flexible times
- Holding meetings in a variety/accessible locations around the city
- Surveying parents in person, by phone, mail, or e-mail

Review of district wide parental involvement plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent involvement policies necessary for more effective involvement.

To facilitate this review, the district will conduct the following activities:

- Explaining to parents when and where the review will take place
- Informing parents of their role in the review process
- Providing a translator for parents who do not speak English

Development of school level parental involvement plans

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parental involvement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance, as appropriate to meet individual local needs.

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

- hold workshops and conferences
 - distribute training materials
 - train parents to help other parents get involved
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their child's academic achievement. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:
 - provide literacy programs and events that bond families around reading and using the library
 - teach parents how to help promote literacy and numeracy with their children
 - provide parents with ideas about using the internet with their children to review information about the schools
 3. Educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on how to:

- reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
- implement and coordinate parent programs; and
- build ties between parents and the schools.

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

5. Inform parents of local resource centers that may provide information, training or support. Coordination of parental involvement strategies to improve achievement

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with the NCLB, Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with any other applicable programs.

Ref:

§1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)(3); 100.4(f); 100.5(d)(4); 149.3(16)

Revised: June 24, 2015

Poughkeepsie City School District