

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

I. Introduction

Research has shown that the attitudes, behavior and achievement of children are enhanced when parents or other caregivers are involved in their children's education. To that end, the **Magnolia Public Schools (MPS)** (the "LEA") has adopted this parent involvement policy in order to promote learning and provide a more positive learning experience for the students of its schools.¹ This policy has also been submitted to the California Department of Education with the LEA's Consolidated Application.

II. Involvement in Drafting School Plans

Parents will be involved in the development of the LEA/SSD plan, Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and the LEA's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). On an annual basis, the LEA will submit California Department of Education ("CDE") -required plans to the Parent Council for review and suggested changes before appropriate plans are submitted to the authorizers and the CDE with the Consolidated Application. In addition, all parents of participating children will annually be invited to review these plans and submit comments.

If the LEA/SSD plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA will submit any comments from parents of participating children with the LEA/SSD plan when it is submitted to the CDE.

III. Involvement in School Review and Improvement

All parents will be involved, to the extent possible, in the process of school review and improvement. This includes disseminating the results of the local annual review of each school served under Title I, Part A to parents.

In addition, the parents of participating children will be invited to annually review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and other Title I, Part A activities and provide comments to the LEA.

Identification of a school for improvement: Before the LEA identifies its school for improvement, for corrective action, or for restructuring, it shall provide the parents of all children enrolled in the school with notice of an opportunity to review the school-level data, including academic assessment data, on which the proposed identification is based. If the **Principal** of the school believes, or a majority of the parents of the students enrolled in such school believe, that the proposed identification is in error for statistical or other substantive reasons, the **Principal** may provide supporting evidence to the LEA, which shall consider that evidence before making a determination.

School plan: Parents of participating children will be involved in the development and/or revision of a school plan required of the school identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, which plan shall be approved by the LEA in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Notice required after school identification: If the LEA's school is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring, the LEA will promptly provide to all parents of children enrolled in the school (in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand), a notice containing the following:

¹ Within this policy, the word "parent" is employed. This word is intended to reach any caregiver of students enrolled in the LEA's school, including but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

- An explanation of what the identification means, and how the school compares in terms of academic achievement to other elementary or secondary schools served by the LEA and the CDE;
- The reasons for the identification;
- An explanation of what the LEA or the CDE is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
- An explanation of how the parents can become involved in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement; and
- As applicable, an explanation of the parents' option to transfer their child to another public school under the control of the LEA, return to their district of residence or to obtain supplemental educational services for the child.

Information regarding corrective action taken: The LEA shall publish and disseminate information regarding any corrective action taken at a school to parents of each student enrolled in the school in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

Restructuring: Whenever a school fails to make adequate yearly progress after 1 full school year of corrective action or when the LEA is required to implement alternative governance, the LEA shall provide prompt notice to parents and provide parents with an adequate opportunity to comment before taking any action and to participate in developing any plan required by ESSA.

IV. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support

The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist its participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance in the following ways:

- The LEA will reserve funds to the school for parent involvement activities as required by law;
- The LEA (board and school leaders) will collaborate to devise a timeline for parental involvement activities throughout the school year and create a follow up tool to ensure that the activities occur.
- The LEA will develop the necessary technical assistance for planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

V. Annual Meeting

Within 60 days of the first day of school, the School shall convene an annual meeting to which all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs are invited and encouraged to attend. The School will hold additional meetings to ensure the maximum parental participation, providing the same information, to be offered at flexible times, such as in the morning or evening.

The information provided at the meetings will inform parents of the School's receipt of Title I, Part A funds and the specific requirements of Title I, Part A. Additionally, parents shall be informed of their rights to be involved in Title I, Part A programs.

VI. Notice

Within **60** days of the beginning of school, the School will send [**e.g., via mail, sent home with students, and/or placed in orientation packets and/or registration packets**] a notice to [**if in a targeted assistance school**] [parents of participating children] [**or if in a school with a school wide program**] [all parents] containing, but not limited to, the following information:

- Information about Title I, Part A programs;
- An explanation of the requirements of Title I, Part A programs;
- A description of the rights parents have for participation in Title I, Part A programs;
- A description (including timing of meetings, location, etc.) of how parents can participate in the planning, review and/or improvement of the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
- An invitation to attend the annual meeting and additional meetings, providing information about the purpose of the meetings and the dates and times.
- A copy of the most current Parent Involvement Policy and a feedback form for parents to comment on its content.

With this notice, the School will include a survey for parents to complete identifying whether they will require transportation, child care or home visits in order to participate in the parental involvement program of the School. If there is sufficient need for transportation or child care at any of the parental involvement activities identified in this policy, the School may provide such services and notify the parents of such provided services.

In addition to mailing this notice to parents of participating children, the School will post the information on its website.

VII. Title I, Part A Program Involvement

In order to involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan, the School will involve parents of participating students as follows:

- The School will conduct at least one Family Learning Night each year where all parents of participating children will be invited to the School to learn about the different Title I, Part A programs, details of this policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. These meetings will be held at flexible times. Additionally, some may be located at community libraries or at parent volunteer homes for those who live far from the School.
- Parents not attending the Family Learning Nights will be contacted by a volunteer by telephone to encourage participation and inform them of future Family Learning Nights.
- The School will publish a regular Newsletter with notification of upcoming participation opportunities.

- The School will create a School Site Council (SSC) where it will plan, review and improve Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan. The SSC will meet at the School and will consist of:

Category (a):

- The principal
- 4 teacher representatives selected by teachers at the school
- 1 other school personnel selected by peers at the school

Category (b):

- 3 parents of students attending the school selected by such parents
- 2 students selected by students attending the school
- 1 community member selected by parents of students attending the school

The SSC shall be constituted to ensure parity between the principal, classroom teachers and other school personnel; (b) equal numbers of parents or other community members selected by parents, and pupils. Classroom teachers shall comprise the majority of persons represented under category (a). (Education Code Section 52852)

Furthermore, Education Code Section 52852 states that parents or community members on the SSC may not be employed by the school district.

Additionally, the SSC will be involved in decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent involvement activities are allotted for those activities.

- Each year, the School will hold an End of School Night, at which parents of participating children will be invited to review Title I, Part A programs, the parent involvement policy, and if applicable, the schoolwide program plan and recommend any changes.
- **At least one** of parents of participating children will be invited to accompany School staff on retreats to participate in discussions and sessions dealing with Title I, Part A programs.
- If requested by parents of participating children, the School will schedule regular meetings where parents are able to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The School will respond to such suggestions within **48 hours**.
- If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the School will submit any parent comments on the plan when it submits the plan to the LEA.

VIII. Building Capacity for Involvement

A. Standards, Assessments, Title I Requirements, Monitoring Progress and Improving Student Achievement

In order to ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership among the LEA, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA will provide the following programs to assist parents in understanding State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and

local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children (collectively referred to "Standards and Requirements"):

- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board of directors;
- The LEA will seek input from the Parent/Guardian Club and the SSC on ways to assist parents to understand the Standards and Requirements.
- The LEA will encourage parents to serve on its board committees.
- The LEA will regularly publish in its Newsletter, and/or on its website, descriptions and explanations of State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the academic achievement of their children.
- Regular meetings will be held by the LEA at each school, at community libraries and/or parent volunteer homes to discuss how parents can work with educators to improve their child's academic achievement.
- The LEA will hold Back to School nights to introduce parents to the School's curriculum and its correlation to the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards.
- Parents will be invited to attend regular classes to learn about State and local academic assessments and to take sample tests.

B. Helping Parents to Work with their Children

In an effort to foster parental involvement, the LEA will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement through the following programs:

- **Student-Teacher Status Portal:** MPS uses an online web portal to enable parents, students, and teachers to communicate more efficiently. Teachers have a webpage for every class in which they post course material, homework assignments, projects, course grade statistics and records of students' grades on quizzes, tests, class participation and homework assignments. Students and parents use confidential passwords to log on.

Families without home computers will be encouraged to come to the school and use one of the available computer stations. Classes are held at the school on how to use the portal as well as how to access it via free Internet access at public libraries if that is more convenient than coming to the school.
- The LEA will provide parents with access to literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library.
- The LEA will provide annual seminars on parenting skills and parent-child communication.
- The school's psychologist will work with parents to better understand their children and the issues facing them.
- The LEA will train parents how to tutor their children in the school.
- Individualized student and parent advisory sessions: Each of LEA teachers and mentors will be assigned to a small group of students. They will arrange two to four meetings at school during the school year to discuss their students' academic achievements.

- One-on-one meetings with the parents of academically low-achieving students to support the parent in providing the student the study environment he/she needs.

C. Education on Parent Involvement

The LEA will annually educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in 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 School. The training shall take place each year in staff orientations, annual staff development materials and other in-service trainings held throughout the school year.

In order to better understand what works best for the current parents of participating children attending the LEA's schools, the education will take place after the following research is done (which shall be accomplished within the first 90 days of the commencement of the School year):

- **Home Visits:** Research has shown that one of the keys to successful teaching and schooling is creating personal connections with students inside and outside of school.² Knowing the students' outside interests, families, and home routines, and then using this information to connect in meaningful, individualized ways can have huge rewards in helping to create happier, healthier, and smarter kids. Recognizing these facts, the LEA will use home visits as one of the important features of its education program to not only improve student and school performance, but also to identify and intervene early with low-achieving students.

The LEA teachers will visit students at their homes to enhance student learning and involvement. Family visits offer invaluable insights about students. They can provide new understanding about students' learning styles. Visits might also reveal the emotional and social needs and behaviors of students. It is helpful to know if they react to problems with tears, anger, or withdrawal, and how they socialize with peers. Through family visits, teachers can identify students' latest interests or concerns, such as a new hobby, an upcoming trip, or a change in the family.

- A phone tree will be established where volunteers call all parents of participating students to solicit feedback and ideas for building ties between parents and the LEA, how to best communicate with parents and how to work with parents as equal partners.
- A survey will be sent home to parents of participating students that solicits information on what skills each parent has to offer the LEA and what types of parental involvement programs in which parents would most likely participate.

D. Other Optional Parent Participation

The LEA will involve parents in the development of the training regarding the importance of parent involvement for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation, the LEA will arrange school meetings at various times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at the LEA.

The LEA will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

² Source: http://crede.berkeley.edu/products/print/pract_briefs/pb1.shtml

The LEA will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, such as sponsoring events, providing volunteers for school activities, and creating internships for students.

IX. Coordination with Other Programs

If applicable, the LEA shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with programs such as Head Start, Early Reading First, and 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.

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with these programs as follows: 1) requiring that the school conduct meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers or, if appropriate, teachers from other early childhood development programs such as the Early Reading First program, to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children; 2) developing and implementing a systematic procedure for receiving records regarding such children, transferred with parental consent from a Head Start program or, where applicable, another early childhood development program such as the Early Reading First program.

X. Annual Evaluation

The LEA, with the involvement of parents, shall conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under ESSA. The LEA will pay 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 LEA will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this family involvement policy.

XI. School-Parent Compact

At the beginning of each school year, the School will enter in to School-Parent Compacts with parents of participating children. The School-Parent Compact will outline how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic 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.

The Parent Council will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School-Parent Compact and provide feedback and suggestions for revision.

XII. Involvement of Parents of Limited English Proficient Students, Disabled Parents and Parents of Migratory Children

The LEA shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of limited English proficient students to inform them regarding how they can be involved in the education of their children, and be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels in core academic subjects and meet challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards expected of all student. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will hold regular meetings, and send notice of these meetings, for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of participating children.

- The LEA will provide language translators at parent meetings to the extent practicable.
- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- The LEA will provide parents of limited English proficiency with access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to increase their English language proficiency to assist their children with homework. The school's principal will visit the classes to interact with the parents.
- **English Learner Advisory Committee:** The English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is mainly a committee of parents or other community members who want to advocate for English Learners. The committee provides parents of English Learners opportunities to learn more about the programs offered to their students and advises the principal and the School Site Council (SSC) on programs and services for English Learners.

State law mandates each school site with 21 or more students of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in attendance, regardless of language, to form a functioning English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). The ELAC will be formed at the LEA when the School has 21 or more students of LEP.

The LEA will provide full opportunities for participation of parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children. To accomplish this goal, the LEA will do the following:

- The LEA will schedule meetings to enable families to share information about culture, background, children's talents and particular needs for the schools.
- Teachers will be encouraged to make home visits to discuss student progress with the parents. Parents, students, and teachers meet throughout the year to monitor students' progress.
- Teachers will meet one-on-one with parents of such students on an as needed basis to ensure the proper supports are in place for the student.

XIII. Notices

In accordance with NCLB, the LEA will provide the following notices to parents of children attending Title I, Part A schools:

- Annual report card;
- A notice regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers;
- The notice regarding language instruction programs;
- Any other notices required by law.

XIV. Miscellaneous

The LEA shall ensure that all information related to LEA and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents.