

RELATED ENTRIES: ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT FOR EDUCATION SERVICES
 TITLE I INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

The Cecil County Public School System values parents as partners in the educational process. Parents are the first teachers of their children; therefore, it is vital that the home and school work together to assure academic success for each child. Opportunities for parents, guardians and other family members to become involved in their child's educational experience will be offered at each school and will be supported at the district level. The Cecil County Public School System intends to include parents in all aspects of the county's Title I program.

Parental Involvement in Developing and Reviewing the Policy

An advisory committee, with representatives from each Title I school, will meet annually to jointly update the district's *Parent Involvement Policy*. This committee will consist of parents, Home School Advisors, Instructional Support Teachers, and the district Title I Coordinator. In addition, each school must have a written *Parent Involvement Policy*, developed with and approved by parents.

Title I Parent Participation

An annual meeting for parents will be held every fall, at each Title I school. Parents will be given information about the new Title I guidelines and how they differ from the previous program in their school. Families with limited English or those in need of interpreting for the deaf will be accommodated. All parents will be given copies of the county's current *Parental Involvement Policy*, and will be offered a chance to provide feedback. As necessary and possible, this policy will be translated so that parents understand the language and format. In order to reach all families, the district policy will be sent home in the school newsletter or handbook, the CCPS calendar, and will be posted on the CCPS web site.

In addition, representative parents will participate on each Title I School Improvement Team. This team examines achievement needs, designs programs that address improving achievement, and annually evaluates effectiveness. The team is responsible for deciding how the supplemental Title I funds are used at each school. A district staff member serves on each School Improvement Team, in order to provide support and perspective.

Build Capacity for Involvement

A mid-year and end-of-year district level Title I peer review will monitor the parent involvement implementation at each school. The school system will assist schools in building parent capacity through the technical coordination of the Home School Advisor initiative. This supporting services staff position, at each school, is funded through Title I and is responsible for carrying out the parent involvement components of the Cecil County Title I project. Bimonthly staff development provides training on best practices and connects Home School Advisors with community networking resources. Some of the essential duties of this position include:

- Assuring that school-parent-student compacts are in place, including parent involvement in the design and annual adjustment to the compacts.
- Working with parents to understand the instructional program and to share techniques for using instructional activities that reinforce the skills taught at school.
- Coordinating and integrating parent involvement programs with early literacy programs.
- Providing assistance for parents in understanding academic standards, assessments, and ways to monitor their child's progress.
- Assisting in clarifying communications to ensure that materials sent home are understood by parents.
- Combining home visits with support materials and early childhood program information for preschool aged Title I siblings.
- Providing training for parents at convenient times, i.e., morning and evening.
- Conducting yearly evaluation of program effectiveness in increasing participation.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

HISTORY: PROPOSED, JULY, 2004