



Resource 4

What *NCLB* Says About Parental Involvement*

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* became law in 2002 with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). One of the programs within the ESEA that has a strong parental involvement component is the Title I Program. The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and State academic assessments. *NCLB* requires that all schools receiving Title I dollars have a written parental involvement policy which is developed jointly with, and agreed upon by parents and educators. It must be distributed to parents and educators of children participating in Title I programs. It must ensure that successful strategies to encourage and sustain active parental involvement are in place in every school.

Check yes or no to determine how well your school is addressing parental involvement. Share your results with a teacher, principal or other parents.

Title I schools are required to:	Yes	No
1. Develop with parents, a written parental involvement policy that is distributed to parents and made available to the local community.	_____	_____
2. Hold an annual meeting for parents to inform them of the policy and their right to be involved. The meeting should be scheduled at a time convenient for families.	_____	_____
3. Offer flexible parental involvement meeting times. Schools may use Title I parental involvement funds to provide child care, transportation or home visits.	_____	_____
4. Involve parents, in an organized and ongoing way, in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I plan.	_____	_____
5. Develop with parents, a school-parent agreement that outlines actions to be taken to improve individual student academic achievement.	_____	_____
6. Increase opportunities for parental involvement in the school by helping parents understand academic content standards.	_____	_____
7. Provide materials and training for parents, teachers and all staff to foster greater parental involvement.	_____	_____
8. Integrate activities with other federal programs, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Head Start, English as a Second Language (ESL) and others.	_____	_____
9. Inform parents as to their right to inquire about the qualifications of their child's teachers.	_____	_____
10. Inform parents if their child is taught for four or more weeks by an unqualified teacher or long-term substitute.	_____	_____
11. Inform parents of the school's <i>NCLB</i> designation.	_____	_____



What Parents Can Do

The law requires Title I schools to ensure that each parental involvement policy statement be written with parents, school staff and school district personnel. This requirement enables parents to sit at the table with school administrators and other educators and write a parental involvement policy. This policy should address how the school, in partnership with parents, will promote the social, emotional and academic growth of children. Parents are now required to be a part of the discussion about how schools will help all children meet the state’s academic performance standards.

- **Ask for a copy of your school’s parental involvement policy. Take time to review it. If you need more information, meet with the principal to review the policy.**

- **Find out what other parents think about the policy and if it covers their concerns. PTA or PTO meetings, neighborhood or community events are good places to visit with other parents. Find out when school and district meetings are scheduled and plan to attend. Get contact information for parent leaders in your school. Take time to contact them.**

- **When you review the policy, look for the answers to these questions.**
 - How were parents involved in developing the policy?
 - How often is the policy reviewed? When was it last reviewed and updated?
 - Does the policy consider some of the reasons why parents do not get involved and ways to address these challenges?
 - How does the school get parent input and approval of the policy?
 - What kind of parent training will be offered and when? Do the topics reflect the interests of families?
 - What ways are planned to make meetings and other events convenient and accessible to families? Are times flexible? Is there transportation and childcare?

* For more information and current revisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act* go to the US Department of Education’s NCLB web site page at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Adapted from: Parents Reaching Out, www.parentsreachingout.org