

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

TITLE I FAST FACT SERIES

Issue: Parental Involvement in a Schoolwide Setting

As teachers, we understand the importance of parental involvement. Schools with a Title I program must have some very specific requirements that must be in place in regard to parental involvement. Below is a list of those requirements:

- The Parental Involvement Policy – This policy should be updated yearly, distributed to parents in some manner, and describe the ongoing activities that are held by the school to inform and involve parents in their child's education. In large districts, the district and each of its Title I schools must have a unique parental involvement policy. In smaller districts, the district and its Title I schools may develop a joint policy; however, district level and school level requirements must be adequately addressed. This policy must meet US Department of Education (USDE) regulations.
- The Parent-School Compact – This is an agreement between the home and the school that outlines each party's responsibility for supporting student learning. Each Title I school should have a compact outlining its unique needs. This compact must meet USDE regulations.
- The Annual Parent Meeting – Each year, the schoolwide schools are required to host a meeting for parents to explain the Title I program. (This is different from the Schoolwide Annual Review meeting, which is also required). This meeting should give parents the opportunity to actively participate and have input into the schoolwide program, as well as provide an overview of the schoolwide plan. Preferably, this meeting occurs at the beginning of the school year. You must be able to document this meeting with minutes, agendas, sign-in lists, etc.
- Assessing Parental Involvement Component – At the end of each school year, you must assess your parental involvement component. How you conduct the assessment of the parental involvement component is a local decision. Most often, it is a survey sent out to parents. The idea is to give parents a chance to voice their feelings by asking them, "Did you have the opportunity to be involved in the schoolwide plan?" and "What are your suggestions or recommendations for improving the schoolwide program?"
- Providing Opportunities for Training Parents – The schoolwide program must provide parents with opportunities to become partners with the school in promoting the education of the child at school and at home. These opportunities should be aligned to schoolwide goals, and should include information about specific methods parents can use at home to complement their child's education toward reaching schoolwide goals. This requirement could be evidenced by parent training sessions or workshops, copies of handouts and/or newsletters distributed to parents, and examples of information exchanged at parent-teacher conferences.
- Annual Review Meeting – This is a yearly review of the entire schoolwide program. This is where you would gather data about your schoolwide program, its implementation, student achievement data, perception data (including the parent assessment), and demographic data. This data should help you measure the success of your schoolwide plan in terms of how well it is being implemented AND its impact on student achievement. The information should be used to revise the schoolwide plan each year. The Schoolwide Annual Review Meeting is included under the parental involvement section since parents must be informed of and involved in the Schoolwide Annual Review Meeting.
- Parents' Right to Know Clause – At the beginning of each school year, all parents must be notified that they may request, and the school will provide upon parent request, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. This notification is the responsibility of the school administration.
- Students Being Taught by Highly Qualified Staff – If a child is taught for four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the federal definition of highly qualified, his/her parents must be notified of this fact. This includes all children, whether they are a Title I student or not. This notification is the responsibility of the school administration.
- Notifying Parents on LEP – Parents must be notified if their child is placed in a program for LEP students.
- 6 Types of Parental Involvement – Schools must encourage family support of students' learning through supporting parenting skills, communication styles, learning at home activities, volunteering opportunities, decision making abilities, and opportunities to collaborate with the community.

There is a wealth of information available on the Department of Public Instruction website pertaining to parental involvement. For more information, go to www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/require/parent/index.shtm.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact:

Department of Public Instruction
State Title I Office
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

Telephone: (888) 605-1951
Fax: (701) 328-4770
Website: www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/index.shtm