

TO: School Personnel
FROM: State Title I Office
DATE: August 2007
RE: Parental Involvement Requirements

Parental involvement has always been a key component in the Title I law. Title I, Part A requires parental involvement at every level of the program. Three decades of research provide convincing evidence that parents are an important influence in helping their children achieve to high academic standards. When schools collaborate with parents to help their children learn and when parents participate in school activities and decision-making about their children's education, children achieve at higher levels. In short, when parents are involved in education, children do better in school and schools improve.

A review of available research and literature on parental involvement indicates that there are multiple types of parental involvement. Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University, has developed a framework for defining six different types of parental involvement. This framework helps educators in developing relationships and partnerships between schools and families. The six types of parental involvement include:

- Parenting: Helping all families establish a home environment to support children as students.
- Communicating: Designing effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communication about school programs and children's progress.
- Volunteering: Recruiting and organizing parental help and support.
- Learning at Home: Providing information and ideas to families about how to help children at home with homework and other curriculum related activities.
- Decision Making: Including parents in the school's decisions and developing parent leaders and representatives in the school.
- Collaborating with Community: Identifying and integrating resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

The enclosed handout provides more detail on each of the parental involvement types.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) State Title I office has partnered with the North Dakota Parent Assistance and Supportive Schools (NDPASS) to join the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) and its School, Family and Community Partnership program. Headquartered at Johns Hopkins University, the program is based on Dr. Joyce Epstein's research and provides an approach to family involvement

that both the NDDPI and NDPASS feels confident in promoting and supporting across the state. Schools are also welcome to join the NNPS to help facilitate the implementation of this new requirement. Membership is approximately \$200. Members receive a comprehensive handbook; monthly e-briefs from an NNPS facilitator; information on training workshops; on-call consultations with NNPS by telephone, email, and website; annual collections of best practices; and other benefits and services.

In May 2007, Title I personnel were informed that there would be new parental involvement requirements forthcoming. All North Dakota schools receiving Title I funds will be required to reach out to parents using all six types of parental involvement as based on Dr. Joyce Epstein's framework.

The State Title I office will be using the 2007-2008 school year to share a multitude of resources and training opportunities on this issue. These include:

- Title I 2007 Fall Workshop – Pre-conference Session on Parental Involvement by Ann Henderson
- Title I 2007 Fall Workshop – Breakout session on new parental involvement requirements
- *Title I News* – Bimonthly newsletter articles on each type of parental involvement

During the 2008-2009 school year, Title I programs will be required to show evidence that they are reaching out to parents in multiple ways. This requirement will be mandated and monitored in the 2008-2009 school year. A sample documentation tool has been enclosed.

If you have questions or ideas regarding the implementation of these parental involvement requirements, please contact the State Title I office at (701) 328-2282 or (888) 605-1951.