

TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**General Expectations**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is based on four principles that provide a framework through which families, educators, and communities can work together to improve teaching and learning. These principles are Accountability for Results, Local Control and Flexibility, Expanded Parental Choice, and Effective and Successful Programs that Reflect Scientifically Based Research. The parental involvement provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 reflect these principles. Specifically, these provisions stress shared accountability between schools and parents for high student achievement, including expanded public school choice and supplemental educational services for eligible children in low-performing schools, local development of parental involvement plans with sufficient flexibility to address local needs, and building parents' capacity for using effective practices to improve their own children's academic achievement.

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. The purpose of this policy is to assist the South Colonie Central School District when administering the parental involvement provisions of Title 1, Part A of the ESEA.

Accordingly, South Colonie Central School District shall implement the following requirements pursuant to Title 1, Part A of the ESEA.

- The school district will implement activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated in meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118 of the ESEA, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this District-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the ESEA plan when the school district submits that plan to the New York State Education Department.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in the decisions concerning how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the one percent reserved is remitted directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring:

- a. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - b. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - c. that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
 - d. that parents participate in the implementation of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.
- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center located within the State of New York.

Description of How District Will Implement Required District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

1. The South Colonie Central School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its District-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of children participating in Title I programs, the District will submit any parents comments to the New York State Education Department along with its plan.
2. The South Colonie Central School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- a. Explaining to parents how they can become “involved” in addressing the academic issues; if necessary, consulting with parents in the development of a school improvement plan, and including strategies for effective parental involvement.
 - b. Providing parents with adequate opportunity to participate in the development of a restructuring plan if their child’s school is identified for restructuring, and to comment before the District implements an alternative governance arrangement.
3. The South Colonie Central School District will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective participation by parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community that student academic performance can occur, through the following activities described below:
- a. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate to understand topics such as the following:
 - the State’s academic content standards;
 - the State’s student academic achievement standards;
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - the requirements of Part A;
 - how to monitor their child’s progress; and
 - how to work with educators.
 - b. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement. The school district will use literacy training and use technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

This Parental Involvement Policy will be reviewed annually, and agreed upon by parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children and update it periodically to meet the changing needs of its constituents.

Reference: Adopted from the United States Department of Education Guidance Document:
Parental Involvement: Title I, Part A (April 23, 2004).
20 U.S.C. §6318
34 C.F.R. §200.28
8 NYCRR §100.2(p)

Approved: December 12, 2006

TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT REGULATION
SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The South Colonie Central School District, and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the 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 that will help children achieve New York State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during the current school year and shall be revised periodically to ensure statutory and regulatory compliance.

School Responsibilities

The South Colonie Central School District will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.
2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.
3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress.
4. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff.
5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and to participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

1. Monitoring attendance.
2. Making sure that homework is completed.
3. Monitoring the amount of television their children watch.
4. Volunteering in the child's classroom.
5. Participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to the child's education.

6. Promoting positive use of the child's extracurricular time.
7. Staying informed about the child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by the child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.
8. Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being the Title I, Part A parent representative on the school's School Improvement Team, the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, the District-Wide Policy Advisory Council, the State's Committee of Practitioners, the School Support Team or other school advisory or policy groups.

Reference: Adopted from the United States Department of Education Guidance Document:
Parental Involvement: Title I, Part A (April 23, 2004).

Issued by Superintendent: December 12, 2006