

Bettendorf Community Schools Title I / Parent Involvement Policy 2016-2017

It is the policy of the Bettendorf Community Schools that parents of participating Title I served children shall have the opportunity to be involved jointly in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of improvements to the Title I service model. Recognizing that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students.

The district provides administrative coordination, technical assistance, and teaching support and materials deemed necessary to aid in the planning and implementation of quality instruction for Title qualified students. The district encourages parental involvement and supports this partnership by providing information about standards and assessments used in the program, training and materials used, and resources for parents to help their children.

1. Parental Involvement Policy: This jointly developed and agreed upon written policy is distributed to parents of participating / identified Title I schools in Bettendorf. A school / parent contract is provided to Title students which outlines how parents, Title I support staff, and students share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve our local high standards. **Notification:** Parents will be notified of their child's participation in the program after determination of qualification or at the start of the school year.

2. Parent Information Meeting(s): Annual building Title I meetings are held for all parents of all Title I qualified children at the Title schools, both public and private. During the 2015-2016 school years, four elementary buildings in the Bettendorf School District will hold annual meeting to provide Title I information to all parents of qualified students. School buildings will contact all parent using appropriate communication avenues. Additional meetings with flexible times can be held throughout the year or be called for through parent or staff requests. Parent recommendations are encouraged and responded to in a timely manner. Verbal or written responses will be given for all recommendations and requests. **Title I Building Meetings:** During Title information meetings, parents are given assistance in understanding the Title I requirements, standards, assessments, and teaching strategies used to assist their students. Parents will also receive an explanation of the school's intervention processes and an overview of age / grade appropriate achievement or proficiency baselines.

3. Program Models: In "Targeted Assistance" schools, parents are informed of and involved with their child's participation in the Title I program. Information about the curriculum, instructional objectives, intervention methods and materials used, as well as how scheduling is completed to meet Title students' needs. The "invitation" for parents and students to attend a building's "Title I Meeting Night," can be distributed in parent handbooks, at summer registration or through newsletters, conferences, telephone conversations and / or teacher – student communication processes.

4. (School-Wide Programs Only): Parents will be involved with the planning, review, and improvement of the School-wide programs. The vehicle used will be the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and School Improvement / Leadership Teams (SIT). If the school-wide program is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, they may submit comments to the SIAC / SIT. ***During the 2016-2017 school years, all four participating Bettendorf Schools use a “Targeted Assistance” program model.***

5. Parent Communication Opportunities: The school district continually works to coordinate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, the parent involvement policy and other programs and activities within the district for students receiving Title services. Parents will receive multiple opportunities to monitor their student's progress and communicate with the schools. There are several ways for parents to be involved and encouraged to monitor their student's progress and provide input to their child's education:

- Building Title Meetings (*Scheduled by participating Title I schools*)
- Parent / Teacher Conferences (Fall / Spring)
- Transitional information for all students moving from fifth grade to sixth grade will be provided to parents at all Bettendorf elementary school through the coordination and planning with Bettendorf's Middle School administrators, teachers, and guidance support teams.
- Parent communication tools for ongoing, timely input and sharing using: email, phone calls, text messaging, letters home, teacher notebook, homework communication, report cards, open house events, curriculum nights, and PTA sponsored events.
- Parents are invited to volunteer in their schools and share their time and talents
- Parents are encouraged and notified of District parent involvement opportunities: Parent Seminar, Family Learning Nights, and through outreach and family resource information available at all schools.
- Parents will be notified of the professional qualifications of their child's teachers through the Bettendorf Community School District's Annual Progress Report to the Public and through possible attendance opportunities to Board of Education meetings.

6. Program Evaluation: An annual evaluation of this parental involvement policy shall be conducted. Findings will be used to design strategies for school improvement and revision of policies. Building meetings will also be used to allow for parent questioning and input as to the effectiveness of the building's Title I work. It is the job of the Title I Coordinator to compile Title building input from all stakeholders to determine its effectiveness. The Title I Coordinator will review critical data factors with administrators, teachers and parents to recommend annual “resource” and program adjustments in an attempt to provide equitable and appropriate services for all Title qualified students at the identified Title I buildings.

Providing all Bettendorf Community School District's children with equal access to quality education is of primary purpose. It is crucial that all partners (students, parents, educators, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improved academic achievement for all students.